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LITERATURE

De l'Enseignement Supérieur en Angleterre et en Ecosse. Rapport adressé à son Exc. M. le Ministre de l'Instruction Publique. Par MM. J. Demogeot et H. Montucci. (Paris, Imprimerie Impériale.)

IN 1866 the French Government sent over MM. Demogeot and Montucci to examine the different systems of teaching employed in Great Britain. The first result of their visit was a volume published in 1868, giving a detailed account of our secondary education; they have now issued their Report on the higher and professional education imparted at our Universities and elsewhere. In the Preface to this second volume a sort of apology is made for the gaps which the difficulty of a thorough appreciation of the subject rendered inevitable. But such an apology is quite unnecessary. No one can read the Report of the two distinguished men who have lately visited us without a feeling of astonishment at the wonderful accuracy and enormous amount of the information they have gathered, as well as at their perfect comprehension of the special characteristics and tendencies of the various institutions which fell under their notice. They seem to misunderstand nothing, to overlook nothing; free from any kind of prejudice, they are alike discerning and indulgent in their impartial criticism, and they write about our universities with far more intelligence and appreciation than would be shown by ninety-nine educated Englishmen out of a hundred. The statistics they furnish will be quite a treasure to all who take an interest in our higher education. There are, of course, a few mistakes here and there, but these, with a single exception noticed below, are mere trivial errors, which do not in the least affect the conclusions arrived at.

The volume opens with an account of our old Universities, a sketch of their history, and a careful examination of their influence on the country, their teaching and examination systems, their discipline and method of government. College life is discussed with a vivid exactitude of detail which all University men will thoroughly appreciate. The various defects of our educational machinery are pointed out with discerning impartiality. The insufficiency and comparative failure of the profession; the absence of any sort of learned class at our seats of learning, the evils of the pass-system, the preponderance of College interests over those of the University, and the mischievous results of scholarships limited to this or that particular College, are all of them real, undeniable evils; and if they are gradually being modified and in some cases rapidly disappearing, yet we ought to be grateful for an intelligent criticism which will tend to hasten their removal. The superior morality of English students as compared with those in the large towns of France is candidly acknowledged. After the nonsense which is sometimes talked about our Universities it is most satisfactory to learn the favourable impression which the general tone of the undergraduates left on the minds of our visitors, who speak of the propriety, the moral dignity, the self-respect and respect for authority which characterize

them, and contrast these excellent qualities with the vice and libertinage of the Quartier Latin. They account for the difference by the large dose of freedom which is enjoyed by the English schoolboy and the almost imperceptible change when he passes to a somewhat similar discipline as an undergraduate; whereas, in France, the schoolboy is subject to a very strict rule at the Lycée, but as soon as he becomes a member of the university all restraint, all control is removed, and he is left in a large capital to all the dangerous consequences of a sudden transition from continual surveillance to unbridled liberty.

Between our two Universities no direct comparison is instituted; but it is quite obvious from various hints dropped here and there that MM. Demogeot and Montucci regard Cambridge as the more successful in its training. We fancy that they were disagreeably impressed at Oxford by the quasi-ecclesiastical tone which appears to pervade the institutions of the University to a greater extent than at Cambridge, and by the more prominent influence of dogmatic Anglicanism. Thus in speaking of the buildings of the two Universities, they describe Oxford as crumbling under the hand of Time, and Cambridge as still young and strong, and ask whether this is not in some sort an allegory. They speak with approval of the system of Terminable Fellowships, describe the examination system of Cambridge as superior to that of Oxford, and attribute the larger number of her students to the more scientific character of her teaching. Their conclusions about Oxford, however, seem to be derived to a great extent from Mr. Mark Pattison's book on Academical Organization, and our readers are aware that he does not by any means flatter his own university.

The general character of the culture imparted at Oxford and Cambridge, and their value as a check to the utilitarian and commercial spirit of England, are admirably described in a passage which gives a fair idea of the sort of criticism which runs through the whole volume:—

“Les universités ne sont point des écoles spéciales, professionnelles. Elles demandent à la jeunesse, à la fin de ses études secondaires, un sacrifice surrogatoire de trois années et ne leur donnent en compensation qu'une culture générale, une science désintéressée, utile sans doute à toutes les positions de la vie, mais qui n'est immédiatement applicable à aucune; c'est-à-dire, qu'une pareille institution n'est possible que dans un pays de grandes fortunes, où une classe assez nombreuse peut acheter le premier et le plus beau des luxes, celui de l'éducation. Dans l'Angleterre même, il y a opposition manifeste entre l'esprit national, si positif, si pratique, si utilitaire, et les tendances que nous venons de constater dans les universités anciennes; et c'est pour cela surtout qu'elles sont précieuses à la nation; c'est un des freins qui l'arrêtent sur la pente de l'abaissement intellectuel. Tout le monde convient que le développement de l'industrie et du commerce, avec la richesse qui en est la suite, a été plus rapide dans la Grande Bretagne que le développement intellectuel et moral. Un certain public demande aux universités un enseignement pratique et lucratif; elles refusent avec une noble obstination ou ne cèdent que dans une sage mesure. Elles peuvent soutenir la lutte; car elles aussi sont une puissance.”

After Oxford and Cambridge comes Durham, which is depicted as a not very successful reproduction of Oxford on a small scale. The impression which is given us by the Report respecting Durham is that MM. Demogeot and

Montucci do not consider it to have a sufficient *raison d'être* in its present condition; indeed, they say as much when they hazard the very bold but not at all unreasonable proposal that Durham should cease to compete with the older Universities and should become the university of unattached students. They evidently think that this new class of students cannot possibly be a success at Oxford or Cambridge, because the whole state of things around them will constantly recall to them their social inferiority, and by bringing them into contact with a class different from them alike in taste and in fortune will develop pride on the one side and on the other feelings still more reprehensible; whereas in a University where all undergraduates were unattached, this evil would be avoided, as well as other contingent dangers; surveillance would be easy in a small city, and the temptations to extravagance would be few. For such a purpose they consider Durham specially suitable, with its healthy climate and its already-existing traditions of learning. To these reasons we think another might have been added: the position of Durham would render it very easy of access to Scottish students and to the intelligent workmen of our large northern towns.

The University of London is next described, and very complete and instructive statistics are given about its different examinations, and about the affiliated institutions of University College and King's College. It is pronounced to be a creation full of value to England. Originally founded as a protest against the exclusive Anglicanism of Oxford and Cambridge, it had, from the first, other distinctive characteristics of its own. It offers no education properly so called, no moral or religious discipline, but leaves the student to the wholesome influences of home, and saves him from the danger of acquiring expensive and luxurious habits inconsistent with his position in life. If it does not impart instruction, it has the advantage of not being at the same time teacher and judge, and the want is supplied by the various institutions which are affiliated to it all over England. Above all, it is free from the disgrace of giving its higher degrees without any sort of examination, for while an Oxford or Cambridge Doctor may be a Bachelor who has spent years in forgetting all that he once knew, a Doctor of London is a man who has never ceased to study and to show good results of learning.

MM. Demogeot and Montucci seem to have paid a long visit to the different Universities of Scotland and furnish an elaborate account of their past history and present character. The verdict pronounced declares their system to possess a marked superiority over that of the old universities of England. “In Scotland,” says the Report before us, “men do not come to the universities to win boat-races and run into debt, but to work hard and put themselves in a position to earn their living.” At the same time, one great defect is noticed in the Scottish system. The facility of entrance lowers the character of the teaching, and it is necessary to give quite elementary lectures in Greek and Latin grammar, in Euclid and algebra, in order that they may be within the comprehension of the ignorant classes who listen to them. The result of this is, that a great many good mechanics are

spoil in order to make of them bad men of learning. The already overstocked professions are recruited with inferior men, who would engage with far more advantage to themselves and others in some kind of trade or handicraft; and the Universities are lowered without any corresponding advantage accruing to the country.

The last division of the Report discusses our professional education in theology, law, and medicine. The first of these is passed over rather briefly, and is evidently regarded as of no great importance. There is a short sketch of the theological training, such as it is, at the old Universities and a few theological Colleges, such as St. Bees, Lampeter, &c., are noticed. This is, curiously enough, the only portion of the volume which gives a distinctly imperfect, not to say false, impression: perhaps the inquirers were careless about a subject so essentially insular: perhaps the information derived from ecclesiastical sources occasionally resembled that which was given to Herodotus by the priests in Egypt. At all events, we find the rather suspicious statements that the degree of D.D. can only be attained to at Oxford or Cambridge after eighteen or nineteen years of study and University standing, and that Keble College was founded to render this career less costly.

Legal education is next discussed, and it is evident that the want of a theoretical training for the English Bar astonished and perplexed the more logical minds of our visitors. Our system of deciding everything by precedent is severely, but, we believe, justly, criticized, as utterly unphilosophical in theory, and productive of continual incorrectness in practice, since no two cases ever occur in which the circumstances are absolutely identical. If the art of the legist consists, as it certainly does, in recognizing in the particular case the general principle which lies at its basis, England has no legists, because English law has no principles. Her legists are simply a number of skilled practitioners, some of whom, by the force of their individual genius, are able to struggle into eminence in spite of the disadvantages of their education. This view is confirmed by a long and rather severe letter from M. Jules Leveillé, one of the most distinguished lawyers of Paris.

Last of all comes Medical Education, which is very favourably reported of, although a more thorough organization is pronounced desirable. Careful statistics are given of the teaching at the London hospitals, the Scottish and English Universities, and the other schools of medicine throughout the country; and the means which have been adopted for excluding unqualified practitioners are quoted and discussed at some length. But in this portion of the Report the criticisms appear to be derived not so much from personal research as from the papers published by different Boards of medical inquiry among ourselves.

The volume closes with a number of suggestions for the improvement of higher education in France. An increased competition is recommended in French Universities, and some kind of diploma corresponding to our own class-lists. The superior morality of English undergraduates leads to the proposal of a residence under supervision (*internat*) for French students. Lastly, the independence of State control which the English Universities enjoy

is spoken of as an advantage which might, to some extent, be adopted in France. The constant interference of the State is evidently regarded as an evil by the distinguished authors of this Report, who, without any tendency to what we call a Conservative policy, believe that continual change works greater mischief than time-honoured abuses. Perhaps University reformers among ourselves may be consoled by the opinion which they express, that the very slowness of our changes is one cause of our stability; that the very best reform has no vitality unless it is produced after a long period of labour; and that we have no cause to regret the long discussions and controversies and delays which precede and assure, even while they seem to hinder, our true progress.

Peasant Life in Sweden. By L. Lloyd. (Tinsley Brothers.)

MR. LLOYD'S elaborate works on the field sports of Sweden have given him a prescriptive right to discourse on every feature of the country; and we naturally expected much from his present work. The great fault of it is that its author has not trusted enough to his personal experience. Instead of giving us his own views of Swedish life and sketching for us the scenes he has witnessed, he seems to have collected traits and characteristics from other writers, and many of his chapters have the air of a compilation. All the opening pages, which are devoted to wedding customs, might have figured in Mr. E. J. Wood's last work; and, while we do not suspect Mr. Lloyd of having merely "crammed" up his subject, we see that the bulk of the details must have been gathered together by some such process. quaint and amusing as are many of the superstitions to which Mr. Lloyd directs our attention, they would read better if they were not all tumbled out in a heap. We have to take some pains in picking out the good from the bad, the significant from the unmeaning, and we have to pass over a great number to which there is a stronger objection on the score of indecency. Perhaps it would be too much to expect refinement from Swedish peasants; but Mr. Lloyd might have given them a superficial polish before introducing them into English society.

Weddings, baptisms, funerals, diseases, Christmas and other festivals, law, education and Church, sports and pastimes, together with a variety of legends, make up the contents of Mr. Lloyd's volume. On most of these topics he gives us some curious information. We are not so much struck with the customs of the different parts of Sweden, with the way in which bridal processions are formed in one place and wedding festivities are carried on in another. To our taste, Mr. Lloyd has made far too much of this part of his subject; and we object to this all the more on account of the absence of original research. Some of the traditions, however, which attend all the events of life, are worth quoting. In certain parts of Sweden, when the bride comes home from church, her mother meets her at the house-door and slips a piece of sugar, or a coffee-bean, into her mouth, which is supposed to have the effect of teaching her economy. There is a popular belief that a woman will always have a distaste for the first thing that she eats after marriage; and therefore it is thought right to set her against such expensive luxuries as

coffee and sugar. It hardly needed a ghost from the grave or a popular superstition to tell us that, "if several couples are married at the same time, ill luck will attend one or other of them," for it would be strange if amongst many families all were to be favoured. In one case ill luck meets with a compensation. We are told that children born on Sunday do not live long; but, if they do survive, they will be able to discover ghosts and to destroy dragons that keep watch over hidden treasures. The moment a child is born, its parents hurry it off to be baptized, thinking that Satan has power over it till the ceremony is performed. Mr. Lloyd himself bears witness to the existence of this superstition. He was once taking shelter for the night at a cottage, in the depth of wild forests, during the coldest part of the winter. During the night a child was born in the cottage, and, two or three hours after, was carried off to the clergyman's house, several miles away, the thermometer being far below zero. One of the customs connected with Swedish funerals is that a small looking-glass is placed in the coffin of an unmarried female, so that when the last trump sounds she may be able to adjust her tresses before she stands at the bar of the great tribunal. The strangest superstitions on the subject of diseases are, that dropsy is only curable while the patient's mother is alive, and that toothache is cured by rubbing the tooth with a nail and then driving the nail into a growing tree. The result of this is that the toothache is transferred to the tree so long as it continues growing; but, if any one cuts down or injures the tree, he will have the toothache. No doubt the groans which sometimes proceed from trees, and of which Mr. Disraeli has given a catalogue in one of his novels, are caused by this inherited pain. During still weather it is not felt, but high winds make it more poignant.

The legends that Mr. Lloyd has collected at the end of his book are somewhat varied from the 'Popular Tales from the Norse,' which we owe to Dr. Dasent. One or two, indeed, are new, and others are materially altered; but Mr. Lloyd's 'Fox-tail' is almost identical with 'The Bushy Bride' of Dr. Dasent's collection; the story of the blacksmith's son has its counterpart, and so has the palace "east of the sun and north of the earth." In some of the others we are reminded of the more familiar German legends, as in 'The Giant Outwitted,' of Hansel and Gretel; while the theft of the giant's four treasures in the story of that name recalls our own classical 'Jack and the Bean-stalk.' These, according to Mr. Lloyd, are the stories with which the Swedish peasants while away their long winter evenings. But we have another class of legends in the body of the work, some dealing with Trolls, and others with miraculous appearances. There is a story of a peasant who listened at a hill-side and heard his name mentioned by the Troll who dwelt there. The Troll was just telling his daughters to go to the peasant's house and remain there for six months, one of them conveying herself into the peasant's stomach and feeding on everything good that made its descent into it, while the other was to have every morsel of food that the peasant's maid-servant touched without first wetting her hands. Hearing what was in store for him, the peasant conveyed the spoonful of food in which the eldest daughter had ensconced herself into a stout leather-bag, which he fas-

tened up and beat whenever it showed signs of life. At the same time, he promised his maid-servant a handsome present if she would touch no food for six months without first wetting her hands; and during the whole time she was only once guilty of an oversight. The result was, that, at the end of the six months, the Troll's daughters went back in a miserable state of leanness, while the peasant and his house thrived. A story of a different kind is told of a pious pastor, who went to the church every evening to say his prayers, and whose wife wished to cure him of such exceeding fervour. She got a man to dress himself as a ghost and to stand in the churchyard when the pastor was coming home. As soon as the pastor saw the ghost he began to pray, and the man gradually sank into the earth. Once the pastor stopped to ask the ghost's name; but, as no answer was given, he continued praying, and, in a short time, the earth had engulfed the whole figure. A cross in the churchyard marks the scene of this legend, and the warning it conveys is sufficiently obvious. We fear, however, that the respect for one's pastor, which such a story ought to inculcate, is hardly cultivated by people like the man-servant mentioned in the book, who always went to church sober and was always drunk when he came out of church. How he got the liquor was the great wonder: but, at last, it was discovered that he had a hollow walking-stick, which he filled with liquor. While the sermon was going on, he would be leaning forward with his chin resting on his stick, and he himself wearing a look of great attention. All the time, however, he had a quill inserted in the head of his stick, and through this he was drawing up another draught than that which flowed from the pulpit. In fact, he was following the advice of the English clergyman who preached in French, and who, wishing to recommend the water of life to his hearers, called on them to "*boire de l'eau de vie*."

The Treatise on the Astrolabe, of Geoffrey Chaucer. Edited, with Notes and Illustrations, by A. E. Brae. (J. R. Smith.)

A NEW edition of Chaucer's Treatise on the Astrolabe (or—to use the title in the MSS.—"*Bred and Mylk for Childeren*") has long been a desideratum. The numerous old printed editions are all remarkable for the utter absurdities which they contain, and are wholly untrustworthy. For many years past Mr. Brae has taken great interest in this treatise, mainly with a view to ascertaining the evidences which it affords for the date of the Canterbury Tales.

He has also taken great pains to work out the various problems or "conclusions" which the treatise contains, and many of his notes are both interesting and useful. But we very greatly doubt if he has really solved the problem of giving us a correct text, which, after all, is the one thing most to be desired. We are, indeed, amazed at his method of endeavouring to ascertain it. He nowhere tells us exactly what text it is that he gives us; but it seems to have been based upon three MSS. in the British Museum, and upon the old printed copies. The MS. which he seems to have regarded most is MS. Sloane 261, of which he gives an interesting account, showing it to have been written

by Walter Stevins about A.D. 1555, and to have been dedicated to Edward, Earl of Devonshire. Now, we believe, he has made the fundamental mistake of consulting the wrong sources. Why should any regard be had to the corrupt old printed texts, and to the three late MSS. in the British Museum, when all the while there are numerous early MSS. in existence, some of them beautifully written and illuminated, and with carefully executed diagrams? Surely it is beginning at the wrong end, to take late and corrupt copies and rectify them by calculation and consideration. The only right way is to begin at the beginning; to consult the good old copies first, and the late ones afterwards: whereas Mr. Brae has neglected the old copies altogether. To consult the three MSS. in the Museum was well, as many corrections have been gained from them, but why neglect the six MSS. at Cambridge, and the eight at Oxford? We think this is much to be regretted, because Mr. Brae has given himself a great deal of unnecessary trouble in many points, and has at the same time failed to make his edition a final one. There is still room for another text, such as the Early English Text Society has promised us, from the oldest and best sources. Meanwhile, Mr. Brae's is a clear advance upon all others as yet printed, not being disfigured, as all others have been, by manifest absurdities. He gives clear evidence both of labour and ingenuity as applied to his work, but we wish his sources of information had been better.

Throughout the book we find accordingly many passages where he has adopted inferior readings, or where he fails to adduce good authority for good readings. Thus, at p. 25, for "*halte the tables of the clymates in the rete in the wombe of the moder*," the true reading is *and*; since the pin which goes through the instrument holds both the tables and the rete in their respective places. At p. 27, he adds the words in brackets—"because that the head of Capricorne"—with a note that "these words are not in the copies"; whereas they are to be found in any MS. of value. Again, at p. 29, we have—"the Rete of thyn astrolabye, which is thy Zodiake"—instead of "*with thy Zodiake*"; for the Rete is not the same thing as the Zodiac, but merely contains it. At the end of the description of the Zodiac, at p. 31, the whole of the curious passage in which the various signs are described as acting upon different parts of a man's body, is omitted; as also is the explanation of *anni collecti* and *anni expansi* at the end of Part 2, which, though found in only one MS., and possibly not Chaucer's own, was still worth giving. So again, at p. 42, we have the foot-note, "in all the copies the word is *lyne*; it ought manifestly to be *degre*." But the old MSS. have neither *lyne* nor *degre*; they read *cours*. On the next page, we have another foot-note—"this word is *latitude* in all the copies, an obvious error, since the chief object of the problem is longitude." Now the old MSS. really have *longitude* in this place; so that the words "*all the copies*" must be taken to mean merely all the late and untrustworthy copies; and the reader must be careful to remember that the editor's decision on these points is not final. In fact, such an execrable piece of grammar as "*when thou liste*," on p. 33, instead of "*when thee list*," ought to have told the editor that he could not depend on his MS.; especially as it occurs over and

over again. Minor errors abound, such as *overcometh* for *overkereth*, p. 48, *signet* for *line meridional* on p. 56, *alttude* for *altitudes* in Conclusion XV, *reigned* for *ioined* near the bottom of p. 36, and so on. It is also worth remarking that the order of the Conclusions in the best MSS. differs considerably from that in the later ones, and furnishes a ready test by which to distinguish good copies from bad ones. We give these examples to show that more work yet remains to be done as regards the "*Astrolabe*"; we do not wish to disparage Mr. Brae's work, as he has made the very best of the materials which he has used, and has quite superseded Urry's and all the other old editions.

In fact, we think the text of his book is the worst part of it; his notes are better, though far too positively stated, and his illustrations better still. His identification of the stars Rigil and Alhabor, however, is positively contradicted by the old diagrams both in the English and Latin MSS., and by the numerous lists of latitudes and longitudes of stars in early MSS. Rigil and Alhabor are marked at some distance apart in these diagrams, and Alhabor is identified with Sirius or the dog-star unmistakably, as the point of the star marked Alhabor is frequently represented by a tongue protruding from a dog's head, just as one of the chief stars in *Scorpio* is also represented by a tongue protruding from a scorpion's head. His theory was suggested by the calculations in the MSS. which he made use of; but the early MSS. give a different result.

Passing on to the "*Illustrations*," we may first note that some of them have been printed before, in *Notes and Queries*, as far back as 1851, but it was worth while to collect and reprint them with additional remarks. They have not perhaps obtained all the attention they deserve, but we suspect this has been partly Mr. Brae's own doing. The proposal to alter Chaucer's "*In mene libra alway gan ascende*" into "*In libra min al awwa gan ascende*," where *min al awwa* is the name of a star, is one which, however ably maintained, makes the reader feel that he has to deal with a very bold suggester of emendations, and we think it has probably led to his theories being regarded with suspicion. Yet at least some of them are much to be commended, such as the reading *Cylenius*, i.e. Mercury, for *Ciclinius* (see page 86), and the readings *eighte spere* and *ninthe spere* in the *Man of Lawes Tale* (see p. 14). There is also a very good note on "*the Carrenare*" at p. 101, where we almost wonder that he did not further propose to alter "*the drye see*" into "*th'adrye see*," i.e. the Adriatic, called *Adria* in the Acts of the Apostles; though we do not say we are prepared to look upon such an alteration as anything better than a guess. We quite agree with Mr. Brae in his criticisms upon "*Chaucer's England*." We have also to thank him for a long and careful essay on the word *Prime*, and we think he is right in saying that it sometimes meant nine o'clock A.M.; but we are not convinced that such is its meaning in the *Nonnes Prestes Tale*; for in l. 36, the cock is said to crow an hour after sunrise, (unless it means that he crew every hour), and afterwards we are told he crew at prime; nor do we think that *prime* and *undern* are here identical; else why should both terms be used? We think that Mr. Brae has rather advanced the

question than decided it. With respect to his interpretation of the "halfe cours" in the *Ram* (pp. 65, 81), he argues that it has been unfairly neglected by the Chaucer Society, in order to give a preference to an explanation suggested by Mr. Skeat. We happen to be in a position to assure him that no such unfairness was ever intended, neither ought any such rivalry to subsist between any two students seeking only for truth. With the full desire of obtaining the truth, we have carefully compared the two explanations, and, as Mr. Brae's additional note enables us to see his theory more clearly, we say without hesitation that we believe his interpretation to be far the better one, and we think it ought certainly to be adopted. Let us try and state it as briefly as possible. The question is, why does Chaucer place the sun in the *Ram* on the 17th of April, in the opening passage of his prologue? Answer: the sun at that time entered Aries on the 12th of March, and left it about the 11th of April. Consequently, during April, the sun was partly in Aries, and partly in Taurus, and all that Chaucer means is, that the *Aries part of the month*, or the "halfe cours in the *Ram*," was over; and so it was. Further on, Mr. Brae proposes to read *Juin*, not *Juil*, in l. 10007 of the *Canterbury Tales*. Here again investigation shows that he is quite right. More than this, we can hence deduce the explanation of the first stanza of the *Complaint of the Black Knight*; for, on the 1st of May, the sun would be a little more than half-way through Taurus, or, in other words, "amid the Bulle." Compare also the first stanza of the second book of 'Troylus and Cryseyde.' We hope that Mr. Brae may always in future be credited with this simple solution of an acknowledged difficulty. We must still, however, be allowed to have our doubts about "min al auwa"; neither do we see why his book should terminate with the dictum that a *whippul-tree* is an *axle-tree*, and therefore inserted by Chaucer in his list of trees as a joke! It is a very dull joke; and surely there are many instances in which the thing made of a tree bears the same name as the tree itself. Even "every schoolboy knows" that there is such a tree as a *birch*; nor does it follow that there is no such tree as an *oak* because a man at college "sports his oak"; neither does *mahogany* mean a table and nothing more. The existence of a book originally presupposed the existence of a *beech-tree*, and it is not hard to believe that *whippul-tree* was the name both of a tree and the implement made from it; which implement, by the way, was not an axle-tree, but a cross-bar for traces, if we may trust Mr. Halliwell's explanation.

We ought not to omit to mention that the book contains six beautifully executed diagrams, illustrating the various parts and uses of the instruments. Plate II. does not seem to have been properly reversed, as the months begin on the wrong side and go round the wrong way; but we can especially commend Plate IV., in which the circles of altitude and the azimuths are very correctly shown, upon a plate calculated for the latitude of "Oxenforde." They are a great help to the right understanding of the treatise, which has hitherto always been printed without any diagrams at all!

The Life of Madame de Beauharnais de Miramion, 1629-1696. By M. Alfred Bonneau. Translated by the Baroness de Montaignac. Edited by Lady Herbert. (Bentley.)

If ever there was a woman who deserved to have her life written, it was Madame de Miramion; and if ever there was a book which by all the laws of biography ought to have been fascinating, it was this memoir. There was everything that could be desired in the heroine,—she was a beauty,—she was an heiress,—she was a woman of quality,—she was a Frenchwoman of the time of the Fronde,—she was the heroine of an audacious and romantic abduction by Bussy de Rabutin,—she was acquainted with all the remarkable people in Paris in her youth,—and from her widowhood to the end of her life she was connected with the organization of all the charitable institutions of works of benevolence in Paris,—she dedicated her whole life from her twentieth year to labours of charity, and she consecrated her immense fortune to the service of the poor,—she was favoured by Madame de Maintenon, whom she had known as Madame Scarron,—she was treated with consideration by Louis Quatorze, who never refused any of her applications,—she is mentioned in most contemporary books of memoirs of the period, and when she died, the Duc de St. Simon declared her death "to be a real loss," and she earned the proud title of "a mother of the Church and of the poor." Yet with all these advantages ready to their hands, the biographers, with Lady Herbert for their editor, have been so possessed by the fixed idea of producing a book of religious edification, that they have been afraid of making it interesting to the general reader: they might easily have done the one without leaving the other undone; but they have overloaded their pages with eulogies, in the tone which Catholic biography considers the proper method of dealing with saintly and eminent persons. Madame de Miramion is always represented in an attitude of perfection, and instead of a genuine human being, we have "a portrait painted without shadows." The vitality of the book is suffocated by the unlimited use of the attar of roses of spiritual flattery. Few women have done more lasting good in their day and generation than Madame de Miramion—good that has "lived after her," for some of the ideas which she started, and the charities in which she endeavoured to embody them, took root, flourished, and still subsist as national institutions; but if she had been as intolerably devoid of "female errors" as she is here represented, there would have been fewer mourners at her death.

The great merit of Madame de Miramion was, that in all her institutions and charities she endeavoured to create the means by which the people should be enabled to help themselves, and to be permanently rescued from vice and misery.

We will endeavour to give the reader some idea of this remarkable woman, but before doing so, we owe it to the author, the translator, and the editor, to thank them for the great care with which they have given brief but sufficient notes upon all the remarkable persons whose names appear in the narrative. Too much credit cannot be given for the care and pains with which this has been done.

Marie de Beauharnais de Miramion was born in Paris, November, 1629; her father, M. Jacques Bonneau de Rubelle, was a Conseiller d'État; her mother belonged to an old family in Poitou; both belonged to the *noblesse de la robe*. The mother was a woman of very devout life; and the little Marie exhibited a disposition to piety from her earliest years: the death of her mother before she was nine years old confirmed this bias, and gave her a seriousness very unusual in a child. M. Rubelle, the father, transferred himself and his whole family to the hotel of his brother-in-law, M. Bonneau,—a notable Member of the Parliament of the Fronde: his wife, Madame de Bonneau, desired above all things to be considered a *bel esprit* and a woman of quality, and was ambitious that her fine hotel in the Marais should rival the Hôtel de Rambouillet. She seems to have been a rich, handsome, agreeable woman, who desired to do her best for the education and establishment of her young niece, of whose religious ideas she entirely disapproved. She educated her along with her own daughter in all that constituted a fashionable education in those days. It was difficult to rouse the child from her morbid depression; even when in the midst of childish plays the thought of death was uppermost: "I think of death constantly," she said once to her governess, "and ask myself Should I like to die? Should I like to die this moment?" The governess, being herself a *dévot*e, worked upon the feelings of the sensitive child by impressing upon her the danger of amusing herself, and instructed her that "The Saints wore hair shirts and iron chains under their clothes in order that the pain might make them indifferent to what was passing round them." This teaching took effect: Marie de Rubelle saved up her pocket-money, and secretly bought a thick iron chain, which she afterwards wore when she found herself in danger of enjoying worldly pleasures. When only twelve years old her great delight, we are told, was to nurse any persons in the house who were sick, reading to them and amusing them in her play hours. And one Twelfth Night, when there was a children's ball, she slipped away from the company to visit a stable-servant of her father who was dying in terrible convulsions,—by no means a sight for a young girl: she retired to her room and spent the whole night in tears and prayers for his soul. When she was little over fourteen her father died during her absence with her aunt in Normandy, whither she had been taken for the waters of Forges. Her grief was passionate, and she was only dissuaded from entering a convent by the representation that her young brothers needed her; she consoled herself by the thought that she would be a mother to them: and indeed the attachment they all bore to each other to the end of their lives was great. To rouse her from this depression her aunt introduced her at Court when she was only fifteen, and took her into society. Madame Bonneau numbered amongst her acquaintance Madame Scarron and Madame Fouquet, the mother of that most unfortunate of men, Fouquet, the Intendant of Louis the Fourteenth. Nothing could be more brilliant than Paris was at that time. Corneille was giving representations of the 'Cid,' 'Polyeucte,' and 'Médée' at the Hôtel de Bourgogne; and all Paris was in a state of enthusiasm about them. Madame Bonneau was a frequenter of the theatre, and at first

Marie de Rubelle was carried away by the enchantment of all she saw and heard, especially by the charm of Corneille's plays, and she could not help enjoying balls. She was exceedingly lovely, if we may trust the description left by the Abbé de Choisy, and indorsed by a portrait painted by De Troy, which is said to be still in existence. She was tall, with a beautiful figure and graceful carriage; a dazzling complexion of roses and lilies; lovely almond-shaped eyes of dark blue, with an expression of angelic gentleness; her eyebrows were beautifully formed; and her nut-brown hair fell in large natural ringlets over her neck; added to all these, she had an air of intelligence and cultivation. Her charms were supplemented by a very large fortune. But soon the idea that all this enjoyment of society was wrong and vain took possession of her,—"the iron chain" came into use: and when she went to the theatre, she shut her eyes; but when her aunt laughed or made any observation she would turn round and laugh also, as though she had been attending to all that was going on.

Suitors for her hand in marriage could not fail to be numerous; and there is a small incident mentioned which makes one hope that there were occasional touches of human nature which she did not suppress. She went often to the Church of St. Nicholas des Champs, and when there she did not shut her eyes, as she did in the theatre; and being open they saw a remarkably handsome young man, who was as punctual in his attendance as herself. In the biography, we are told that it was his respectful devotion to his mother which alone excited her attention; but even in those days mothers were sometimes obedient to the wishes of their sons, and would do more than go to church with them. This handsome young man was M. de Miramion; and when he made his proposals, Marie de Rubelle signified that she preferred him to all the others. It was in every respect a suitable connexion, and they were married,—the bride being sixteen and the bridegroom seven-and-twenty. The young people went to live with M. de Miramion's grand-parents at the Hôtel de Caumartin, in the Rue du Temple. M. de Miramion was not so fond of going to church after his marriage as his wife expected; and at first she was plunged into a whirl of gaiety and festivity from which she could not escape. Her husband needed to be converted; but as he had already lived a good deal in the world, he was not indisposed to listen to the entreaties of his young wife that they might lead a more retired life, and he promised that she should not be thwarted in any of her religious practices. Madame de Miramion, writing of this period, says:—"I gave up playing at cards and going to balls and theatres, which caused great surprise. I began a regular life; I won over my husband, and persuaded him to live as a good Christian. We were very much united, and much beloved by our family, with whom we never had any disagreement, except from their efforts to make me amuse myself."

This happy state of things was interrupted by the death of M. de Miramion, after a few days' illness, when they had been six months married, leaving his young wife a widow before she was seventeen, and expecting to become a mother. At first, it seemed as though she would die of grief; but the birth of her daughter

consoled her. Her fortune, which before her marriage had been a very large one, was now increased; and when the period of her retirement was over, suitors were more numerous than ever. She refused them all, and continued to live with the old people. One of her suitors was Bussy de Rabutin, the scapegrace cousin of Madame de Sevigné. The state of his finances rendered a rich marriage desirable. He was just then a widower, with three daughters; but as wild, profligate and unprincipled as any young *seigneur* of the period. St. Simon declares "he was equally remarkable for his vanity and hardness of heart"; but he was every inch a man of quality. He could make himself agreeable, and he believed he was irresistible. He had been told by no less a personage than Madame de Miramion's own confessor that she looked upon him with favour; but was afraid of offending her family, who wished to force her to marry some one else, and so Bussy de Rabutin determined on an abduction, and carried it out in a dashing manner. At the head of a band of armed horsemen, wearing masks, he waylaid the equipage of Madame de Miramion near St. Cloud, as she was proceeding with her mother-in-law on a religious pilgrimage to a church beyond Paris. De Bussy himself owns that the lady screamed as loud as she could, which he attributed to the necessity of keeping up an appearance before the mother-in-law: he therefore set the old lady down, with one servant, in the midst of the forest of Livry, into which they had turned; but "Madame de Miramion made as much noise as before." Towards evening they reached the old prison-like Château de Launay, which had been lent for the occasion by the Grand Prior of France, Madame de Sevigné's "uncle the Corsair." It was a place of strength, with three drawbridges, and had once belonged to the Templars. Here no less than 200 armed gentlemen were assembled, who had been induced to assist in the abduction under the belief that the lady had consented to be carried off. Madame de Miramion's behaviour very soon undeceived them; and she refused to leave the carriage until one of them, a "Knight of Malta," pledged his honour she should be set at liberty at daybreak. The whole story reads more like a chapter out of one of Mdlle. Scudéri's romances than a real occurrence. The mixture of violence and high-flown politeness with which the lady was treated is amusing. Bussy de Rabutin did not venture to appear after they arrived at the Château, except for a moment at the door of the hall where she remained all the night, and then he knelt to entreat her pardon, and her consent to marry him. Madame de Miramion refused all food or drink until she stepped into the carriage to return, and then she took two eggs, and nothing else, "for fear of narcotics." This abduction made a noise at the time, and it had some political significance: Madame de Miramion being connected through her uncle, M. Bonneau, with the Parliament of Paris, which was duly indignant at the insult. Bussy was prosecuted; and though he escaped punishment through the interposition of the Prince de Condé, he suffered severely, both in money and in credit, for having been unsuccessful. As for the attempt itself, it was not then considered dishonourable when the purpose was marriage; but whether the priest who suggested the plan met with his deserts, the authors are much too

good Catholics to tell us. Madame de Miramion had a long illness; on her recovery she rejected all further offers of marriage, and devoted herself entirely to the education of her daughter and to works of charity. She also began the life of personal austerity and self-denial, which she continued till her death. She wore a costume like a religious habit, abstaining from all amusements, and retrenching her personal expenses for the sake of having more to expend in charity. She had the gift of being able to manage money matters with skill and thrift; her daughter's fortune was considerably increased by her management; and the daughter herself seems to have been a miracle of discretion, for when, at the age of fifteen, she was married to M. de Nesmond, son of the President of Parliament, her mother considered her capable of taking care of her own fortune: the husband's family consented to its being placed entirely under her own control, and it is recorded that she proved herself worthy of the trust. We are inclined to consider the education of this daughter as quite the best of Madame de Miramion's many good works.

After her daughter's marriage, Madame de Miramion's life became one round of charitable work. She dedicated herself and her whole fortune to the service of God and the poor. At first she thought of becoming a Carmelite nun,—to be a nun had always been her favourite idea,—but all her directors declared she had no "vocation" that way: indeed, she had an imperious energy and a strong will, which would have made her a very difficult inmate to manage. Giving up this design, she set herself to work out other methods of charity that seemed the most called for: she helped with money the Society for the Propagation of the Christian Religion in Foreign Parts; and she gave her château of La Courde for the accommodation of the bishops and priests of the mission to China and India; and there, for eighteen months, the three bishops and twenty priests were entertained at her expense: a magnificent piece of hospitality, but of less value than her labours for the relief and instruction of the poor. The condition of the poor was in those days more frightful than we can conceive, owing to the wars of the Fronde and the general disorganization that was the result. Madame de Miramion was the first who endeavoured to deal with the "Social Evil" in Paris. The idea of reforming was then deemed visionary, but, like our own Mrs. Fry, she had the art of persuasion in a remarkable degree. She took a large house, and obtained the consent of the magistrates to try what she could do with this unruly and overpowering element. She gave herself up to the task of feeding these women, clothing them (not in a uniform, but with taste and neatness), finding them work, and teaching them who to do it,—giving them religious and moral instruction with discretion. To those who wished to lead a better life, she gave the means of settling honourably; those who were incorrigible, she restored to the authorities, supplying their place with others. This establishment succeeded and prospered; and when, after two years, it became more than she could manage, she conceived the idea of appealing to the generosity of the King and to private charity to extend and consolidate the establishment she had begun. She persuaded the

Duchesse d'Aiguillon and other rich women of quality to join her, and, by her talent for business, she got the undertaking into a working, practicable shape. Land was bought, and two large buildings were erected, one of which would now be called a Reformatory, to which the magistrates might send offenders against the peace; the other was a refuge for such women as came voluntarily to learn to lead a better life. The ladies contributed a handsome endowment to work the charity; while Madame de Miramion drew up the rules. It succeeded so well that in 1665 the King confirmed it as a State institution, which it continues to this day, and is called "St.-Pélagie."

Madame de Miramion opened a dispensary for the poor, combined with a school for children, under the superintendence of a sisterhood which she formed. She went herself to live in the house she had taken for the purpose, eating with the community, and learning with them how to make up medicine and ointments, how to dress sores and wounds; but especially they all learned the art of "letting blood," which then was the grand remedy for all disorders. Soon after she had founded her own establishment, she heard of another community, called the Sisters of Ste.-Genéviève, which had been formed with the same object in another parish, and which had fallen into hopeless poverty; she incorporated this establishment with her own, and modestly took their name, calling her dispensary the Institution of the Sisters of Ste.-Genéviève. She was elected their perpetual Superior, and adopted their habit: the poor people, however, called the Sisters "les Miramionnes."

Another undertaking which had excellent results, and was the germ of many similar institutions, was "The Parish Workroom," formed to offer a refuge to young idle girls who had not yet fallen into vice. She gathered all in her parish who would come: they were taught to sew, to do household work, to fit them for service, and learn other things that might enable them to earn a living; they were instructed in reading and writing, and had religious teaching also. Every day they had a dinner at her expense; those who were very poor had a supper also, and those who had neither home nor parents, were taken entirely into the house. This "Parish Workroom," the plan of which was quite new, excited much admiration, and the King was so charmed with this effort to promote the morality of his subjects, that he sent to Madame de Miramion a graceful and highly gracious message of thanks! Similar institutions were founded in other parishes.

Indeed, Madame de Miramion's charities and good works are literally "too numerous to mention,"—the above named may be taken as a specimen of her munificence and good sense. It is difficult to understand how she managed to accomplish so much. Her charity did not consist merely in giving; she could organize great undertakings, and she had the faculty of inducing others to work and to give likewise. She was looked to in all emergencies, for she had studied the poor, and knew all their sufferings. The winter of 1694 was signalized to an unprecedented extent by Famine and Pestilence; the streets were filled with people dying of disease and hunger; the hospitals were nothing but lazar-houses, crowded with wretches almost more miserable than those

who died untended; there were 6,000 patients in the Hôtel Dieu alone, and as many as six in one bed. Madame de Miramion went to President Harley, the Governor of Hospitals, and obtained additional accommodation; her own means were nearly exhausted, and she went in her coach from door to door begging alms. The King gave her a handsome sum, and his example was followed. She opened a soup-kitchen, and gave away or sold at a low price immense quantities, and she found time to go out into the quarters of wretchedness to seek out those who, having fallen from a better state, were too proud to beg. That one individual should have been the centre of so much relief, only shows the disorganized and imperfect state all charity was in; there was no machinery of relief ready to hand; all had to be done by voluntary effort. Madame de Miramion considered herself as only the steward of her own large fortune; she administered it nobly. One secret of her power was that she spent *nothing* on herself. When self is sacrificed the strength that is set free is little less than miraculous. We cannot enter into the details of all she did, and gave away. For many years previous to 1694, she had suffered from cancer, accompanied by constant sickness. Not content with these natural sufferings, Madame de Miramion chose to supplement them with all sorts of voluntary self-inflictions and penances that would have furnished a torture-chamber in the Inquisition,—she loaded herself with heavy chains, and wore hair shirts; whilst she was ingenious and hard to please in the selection of scourges, spikes and disciplines which she inflicted on herself without any pity, not to satisfy her own conscience, but in the idea that by undertaking voluntary suffering she could in some occult manner benefit the hard and impenitent. Her confessor sanctioned this belief; and it was a mistaken phase of that charity which was her characteristic. The fatigue she went through in nursing the Duchesse de Guise led to her death, on the 24th of March, 1696. The tears shed for her death and the title of "Mother of the Poor" by which she was always mentioned, were her best epitaph.

A Handy Book of the British Museum, for Every-Day Readers. By T. Nichols. (Cassell, Petter & Galpin.)

A century since, the large division of London which lies north of Holborn, between the fields of Highgate and Hampstead and the respectable, though dingy and unalluring, quarter which is now-a-days irreverently designated Mesopotamia, had no existence. The ground covered by Somers Town and Camden Town and other neighbourhoods, each of which affords accommodation to a multitude equal to the population of many a noteworthy Continental city, was in the occupation of farmers, whose lands were traversed by cockney sportsmen in the pursuit of wild birds, and by pedestrians who, at nightfall, were occasionally encountered and stripped by the marauders who then infested the outskirts of the metropolis. Throughout the previous eighty years, the Law-quarter, as it is now called, had been steadily extending its lines of houses, in spite of the remonstrances and declarations that London was being enlarged to the detriment of the health and morality of its residents, and greatly over-

built by speculators whom house-builders and other rash projectors were luring to ruin. The gentlemen of Gray's Inn had taken arms against the masons and bricklayers of Dr. Barebone, "the great builder" in the last year of Charles the Second's reign, and provoked on Red Lion Fields the conflict which Narcissus Luttrell commemorated in his Diary. Red Lion Street, Bedford Row, Great Ormond Street, Little Ormond Street, Great James Street and Little James Street, Red Lion Square, Queen's Square, and Southampton Row came into existence at a pace on which no Englishman of the present period reflects with astonishment, though it appeared alarmingly rapid to our forefathers. But even so late as the opening years of George the Third's reign, this district, remarkable for the fashion of its residents and the salubrity of its air, abutted on the country. Bedford House, Bloomsbury Square, with gardens which subsequently became the site of Lower Bedford Place, commanded a fine rural prospect. The aristocratic householders on the northern side of Great Ormond Street looked over the ornamental grounds, in the rear of the dwellings, into green fields; and the people of quality who sent their sons to the famous Dr. Dodd's select academy in Southampton Row recommended the school on the ground that, whilst its master was alike renowned for learning, eloquence and piety, its situation on the extreme verge of the town was peculiarly favourable to the health of delicate boys.

Whilst Bloomsbury Square was still a point in the northern fringe of London, the original trustees of the British Museum purchased for about 10,000*l.* of Lord Halifax an adjacent property, consisting of a mansion and extensive grounds, then known by the name of Montague House, whither they decided to convey the collection of books, manuscripts, natural specimens and artistic curiosities, which had become the property of the nation through the operation of Sir Hans Sloane's will. The site was a good one, close to a quarter occupied by an important section of the aristocracy as well as by a large proportion of the prosperous and representative members of the learned professions. It complied with the wish expressed by Sir Hans Sloane, who directed that his treasures should be preserved in some place "in or about London," where, owing to "the great confluence" of the people, they would be useful to the largest possible number of people; and there appeared also a special propriety in an arrangement which placed the collection in the same parish where the greater part of it had in the first instance been gathered together by the physician who spent the most active years of his life in Bloomsbury. On retiring from practice, Sir Hans Sloane—the second, if not the first, in the line of medical baronets—carried his library and curiosities in 1742 to Chelsea, where he had pulled down Sir Thomas More's ancient residence and built for himself the dwelling, in which he received his friends with comical parsimony and entertained a succession of distinguished strangers, until he expired on January 11th, 1753, at the age of ninety-two. Piquant stories are preserved of the whimsical niggardliness for which he was remarkable in his later years; but that the aged physician could be considerate for, though he never exercised generosity to, the pecuniary needs of his comparatively indigent

companions, we know from the testimony of his scientific gossip and chum George Edwards, who visited him every week during his protracted retirement at Chelsea. "He was strictly careful," George Edwards recorded of his illustrious friend, "that I should be at no expense in my journeys from London to Chelsea to wait on him, knowing that I did not superabound in the gifts of fortune. He would calculate what the expense of coach-hire, waterage or any other little charge that might attend my journeys backwards and forwards would amount to, and would oblige me annually to accept of it, though I would willingly have declined it." Treating the public with the same imperfect liberality, the affluent baronet, whose family consisted of two daughters, could not bring himself to bequeath to the country as a free gift the collection which he above all things desired that the nation should preserve. Valuing the contents of his library and museum at 50,000*l.*, he bequeathed them to the Government, on condition that the trustees paid 20,000*l.* to his heirs. Complying with these terms, the nation obtained possession of the testator's 50,000 books and drawings, 4,000 manuscripts, and other objects of interest,—the 300,000*l.* which covered the purchase of the collection, the sum paid for the Montague House property, and the expenses of building galleries and establishing the museum on its present site, being provided by a parliamentary grant and a public lottery. Particular regulations were made for honest management of the lottery, which yielded 95,000*l.* to the forty-seven trustees who were appointed by the British Museum Act of 1753, and who opened the Museum to a few cautiously chosen spectators on the 15th of January, 1759. Some time elapsed before the general public were admitted to its galleries on terms that enabled any large number of persons to see its contents, or permitted the few who passed through its rooms to derive any practical advantage from the privilege. "Nothing," Mr. Nichols observes, "was to be paid for entrance, but the public was very warily admitted, as great fears were entertained lest the 'mob' should do mischief. Only ten at a time were allowed to enter, and these were broken up into two companies, and limited to an hour's inspection of each department of the Museum. As the days of general admission were also to be considered as public holidays for Londoners, it is, perhaps, no wonder that some alarm was felt for the safety of the Museum." It was urged, in a paper preserved in the Ward Collection of MSS., that—

"If notwithstanding this forewarning it might be judged within the intention of the Act . . . that public days should be allowed, the trustees would find it absolutely necessary to have more than ordinary assistance to preserve the least order on these occasions—to have a committee of themselves attending, with at least two Justices of the Peace, and to have the constables of the division of Bloomsbury; but, besides, these civil officers would have to be supported by a guard, such as usually attended at the play-house; and even after all this, many accidents must and would happen."

Paying the casual sight-seers and common thieves a compliment, which the depredations and thefts perpetrated upon the books and manuscripts of the Museum would not permit him to extend to felonious bookworms, the author observes—

"Happily, the predictions of evil proved so

utterly groundless, that the restrictions on the free entrance were by-and-by abandoned. The Museum has never been injured by sightseers; and it is said that even habitual thieves think it shame to rob that which has been so assiduously and generously gathered and kept for the people's use and pleasure."

In proportion to the Museum's rapid growth in size and wealth has been its growth in popularity. In 1805, the first year in which the numbers of visitors were accurately recorded, there were 11,989 visitors; in 1815 the number was 34,409; and in 1825, 127,643. In 1835 there were, students and visitors put together, 359,716; in 1855, 395,564; in 1865, 477,650; in 1867, 557,317; and in 1868, 575,739.

Readers who wish to trace the growth of the collections and buildings may gratify their curiosity by perusing Mr. Nichols's volume, which is an historical memoir, as well as a descriptive account, of the present condition of the Museum. "From the very commencement," he informs us, "valuable objects and collections of every description, and from every part of the globe, were poured in upon it, until, at the beginning of this century, it was so overfilled that the Antiquities gained by the Egyptian expedition in 1801, and the Townley Marbles, bought in 1805, lay sheltered from rain in the Museum yards." To give appropriate quarters to these additions to the possessions of the trustees, a gallery was built, in 1807. But, fresh accessions of property quickly demanding further extensions,—

"It was considered better to build an entirely new museum-house than to go on ineffectually adding to the old one. Parliament voted supplies, and the work was begun at once. The first wing of the new building was ready for the reception of the Royal Library in 1828. Mr. (afterwards Sir Henry) Ellis being then librarian. As others were added the old building was pulled down; the works of reconstruction and demolition thus went on simultaneously and gradually, and it was not till 1845 that the old Montague House had entirely disappeared."

But of all the changes for the better made in the Museum none have been larger and more serviceable than the improvements effected in the Library and Reading Room. The room set apart for readers in 1759 was "a corner room in the base story of Montague House, furnished with a wainscot table and twenty chairs." To this study Dr. Johnson, Dr. Lowth and David Hume frequently went; and far from speaking scornfully of it, they congratulated themselves on the liberality of its arrangements. In due course readers were provided with more space and better chairs in what British Museum students of fifteen years' standing are wont to refer to as the "old reading-room,"—the two apartments in an ugly building in the rear of the main edifice of the Museum, where the compilers on the ever-growing and never-to-be-ended Catalogue work. It was in these stuffy rooms that the literary aspirant, fresh from college, used to make acquaintance with the "Museum head-ache" and the "Museum flea," and amuse himself during minutes of repose from study with watching the grotesque faces, indescribable garments, and eccentric manners of a departed generation of book-worms. As we write, some of those comical and more or less useful people of letters re-appear to afford us mournful diversion:—the historical lady with a strong mind and moustache, who never condescended to

address an attendant in a voice that was not audible from end to end of both rooms; the feeble old gentleman of snuffy and romantic tastes, who never read anything but the *Waverley Novels*, which he used to peruse over and over again, year in and year out, taking with each paragraph of the artist's fascinating prose a huge pinch of Prince's Mixture, which lay beside him on the table in a paper tray; the piquant and rather impudent damsel who daily came to read and stopped to chatter in the common study, where she always seated herself at the corner of a table so that her scarlet petticoat and stockings were visible to the greatest possible number of spectators; the huge, gigantic, red-nosed, ragged tatterdemalion, who came daily to his seat to study the *Fathers*, and to impart to his particular corner of the rooms an odour of spirituous liquors. Visions also rise before us of ancient attendants who have found rest from their labours,—the kindly, civil old man who never appeared on duty without a big wig on his head and a bright flower in his button-hole; and the garrulous scholar, overflowing with Latin quotations and indications of a ruinous taste for gin and beer, who had studied books before he came to earn his livelihood by carrying them about.

Instead of the two poor back rooms, we have the grand hall of study, with its luxurious seats, its unmanageable draughts of cold and scarcely less afflicting supplies of hot air,—the hall for which every pious and grateful student offers a daily prayer in behalf of Sir Anthony Panizzi. "In the early days of the institution," Mr. Nichols observes, "the readers numbered about half-a-dozen daily, while during the last three years the daily average has been 342, 354 and 353, *i. e.*, in 1866 there were 99,857 readers; in 1867, 103,469; and in 1868, 103,529." That this splendid reading-room is all that we could desire, or all that it was intended to be, cannot be said so long as the efforts of the authorities to conquer its draughts are unsuccessful. Again, readers—especially those whose time is exceptionally valuable—exclaim with reason against the time which an applicant for a volume has to wait for it if he gives in his ticket in the middle or towards the close of the day; while the reader who enters the room early gets the books which he requires in a few minutes. The cause is plain. By the middle of the day the written applications for books have become numerous; and as each application is taken in turn, the late comer's tickets receive no attention till the attendants have disposed of an accumulation of prior demands. No blame attaches to the subordinate officials; but we think an amendment of the reading-room system would do away with a state of things which caused an industrious author by profession to say to us the other day, "I can't afford to use the Museum Library. I am so circumstanced that I can't visit the Reading-Room till the after-part of the day, when I should be kept so long waiting in idleness for the desired works that the privilege of using them would be purchased too dearly. On the whole, I find it cheaper to buy books than to read at the Museum." In spite of all that may be said against special privileges, we wish that the authorities would try the experiment of issuing to readers actually engaged in journalism special tickets that should give their holders the right of precedence over other frequenters

of the Library with respect to their applications for books. The few holders of such tickets would be workers whose time is money, and who cannot go early to the Library. Of the literary loungers, who constitute the majority of the midday or afternoon visitors, not one would resent an arrangement which would require them to wait a little longer in order that workers might get their books, consult them, and go about their business; and certainly the regular and assiduous students would not suffer from a change which would merely require them to do what they do already—apply for their books at the opening of the day. But though we draw attention to the defects of the Reading-Room, it may not be supposed that we are grumblers devoid of gratitude for its benefits. When the most has been made of its drawbacks, the Museum Library is an institution for which men of letters may well be thankful; and no frequenter of it can be insensible to the zeal and considerateness with which its officials do their duty. The alacrity and kindness with which counsel and help are afforded to the public are not more pleasant to those who receive than honourable to those who give the assistance.

Curiosities of Toil, and other Papers. By Dr. Wynter. 2 vols. (Chapman & Hall.)

Few men of letters are better qualified to write the romance of commerce and demonstrate the poetry of humble toil than the author whose present volumes on the curiosities of industry are a worthy sequel to his previous illustrations of our manifold social interests and activities. An inquisitive haunter of workshops and warehouses, he delights to watch the processes by which human ingenuity and perseverance create the fortunes of millionnaires, whilst they supply the vast multitude of artisans with means of subsistence and incentives to productive labour. With the more momentous and perplexing problems of political science he seldom vexes his brain or troubles his readers. Others may ascertain the results of international commerce, and seek for the laws which control the relations of employers and workmen, and regulate the action of producers and consumers. It is enough for him to visit factory after factory, and record what his vigilant eyes have detected of the ingenious contrivances that impart value and beauty to cheap and unlovely substances, or of the dishonest practices which impart a delusive appearance of goodness to worthless or highly hurtful products. Prompt to expose the tricks of fraudulent dealers, he seizes opportunity to dispel the misconceptions and strike well-directed blows at the prejudices which make ignorant purchasers an easy prey to practitioners of adulteration: but though he does good service in denouncing cheats and impostors, he labours no less beneficially and is seen to even greater advantage when he places in sharp contrast the results of stupid wastefulness and wise economy, and demonstrates how the most delicate perfumes and dyes may be extracted from putrid and revolting materials, or how a prodigious gain accrues from a jealous preservation of infinitesimal particles of precious matter. By turns the lecturer takes for his text a dust-heap, a pile of bones, an accumulation of old clothes, a dead horse, or a mass of putrescent vegetables, and shows how the thing that appears profitless refuse to

the untrained observer may be converted into various forms of wealth by the cunning artificer; and so that his pupils may not weary of an instructor who deals chiefly in lessons affecting their material interests, he occasionally enlivens his discourses with pathetic illustrations of the temper and sufferings of the toilers, whose patient labour yields him the principal curiosities of his entertaining pages. For instance, in a capital paper on the mischievous propensities of the London *gamin*, and the divers industries of our street Arabs, the social illustrator gives us in a few pathetic words a striking account of the cruelty and compassion which a homeless boy experienced in quick succession on waking from slumber on a not luxurious couch. "One poor little fellow," says the author, "told me he 'cuddled up' one night in a barge, and when the men came to work at five o'clock in the morning, one of them put a rope round his middle, and chucked him out into the river, pulling him in again, and repeating the process, as if he had been a bucket of water; and this was in mid-winter! 'but,' said he, 'another of the men said he had little ones of his own, and he did not like to see me so served, and he took me to a coffee-shop and had my clothes dried, and gave me some coffee.'"

The principal fault of the book is the unavoidable disjointedness of a collection of essays, long and short, on a great variety of subjects that are related to one another only in being illustrative of some matter of human concern; and in addition to this want of continuity of interest, it may be objected against Dr. Wynter that, though he is never guilty of boring his readers with superfluous details, he occasionally, through fear of being tedious, gives them an insufficient measure of serviceable facts. Moreover, in one or two places he has not, whilst revising his multifarious papers for republication, been duly careful to avoid the sin of repeating himself. For instance, having in an excellent chapter on 'Cartes de Visite' given proper prominence to the case of the unfortunate and speculative father of six children, who sought charitable adopters for his offspring by dispersing circulars of appeal together with photographs of the infants whom he hoped to plant on benevolent experimentalists, Dr. Wynter tells the same story, and gives for the second time the elderly gentleman's advertisement, in a subsequent essay on 'Begging and Alms-giving.' Concerning the photographer's trade the author gives us the following particulars:—

"The sale of cartes de visite is scarcely a fourth of what it was when they first came into vogue. All our photographic albums are filled; the whole of our friends are represented; and the celebrities of the day and children now mainly keep the photographers in employment. But the sale of noted individuals and of the Royal Family is still immense. Some of the wholesale houses do an enormous business in this article. The Messrs. Marion, in Soho Square, alone possess the cartes of many hundred thousand persons. This house does not photograph, but merely purchases of those who do. The possession of negatives of famous persons is a fortune to a man. Mr. Mayall, of Regent Street, who has photographed nearly all the Royal Family, has been paid, by the house of Marion alone, upwards of 35,000*l.* for cartes de visite of its various members. The Stereoscopic Company, which photographs as well as purchases negatives of any celebrity that may be inquired after, possesses a portrait gallery which includes every

known person of any distinction. It is scarcely necessary to say that any matter which brings an individual into public notice at once raises the value of his carte de visite. Tom Sayers's battle with Heenan sold fifty thousand of his cartes de visite. The gallant bearing of the Queen of Naples placed her photograph in every album in the kingdom. Many a man, through some accidental circumstance, wakes up and finds himself famous, and in two or three days his carte de visite is staring at him from every window in town. If an illustrious person is reported ill, there is an immediate inquiry after negatives, and as the pigeon-holes of Printing-House Square are always kept well supplied with biographical sketches of statesmen about to depart this life, so the photographic printer anticipates their death by keeping a large supply of cartes de visite in hand. We scarcely know whether a statesman would be pleased or shocked at such an anticipation of his decease. It may not be pleasant for any man to know that others are eagerly making a market of such an event; but then, on the other hand, it must be highly flattering to know that when he has gone home and taken with him the original, he has left so many copies behind. Whether it was that Lord Palmerston had, during his lifetime, discounted his popularity, or because of any re-action which has occurred with respect to his memory, we know not, but it is certainly an undoubted fact that his carte de visite is no longer called for; whilst those of many of his contemporaries, now deceased, are still in very fair demand. Thus Cobden is still largely sold in the market, possibly because he represented a principle which is dear to the hearts of his countrymen."

If the trade in cartes de visite is flagging, Dr. Wynter informs us that the trade in ice has been growing and expanding for several years, and is at the present time in a condition of unprecedented briskness and vigour,—an announcement that in the existing crisis of drought and heat is scarcely less refreshing to the thirsty reader than the article which makes us familiar with secrets of our commerce in frozen water.

Grundriss der Christlichen Dogmengeschichte. Von Friedrich Nitzsch. Erster Theil. Die Patristische Periode. (Nutt.)

WHAT the Germans call Dogmengeschichte, i. e. a history of doctrines, is a branch of theological literature foreign to English culture, which no writer in this country has treated systematically or completely. Yet it is an important department of study, necessary to those who intend to survey the field which theology embraces. In one sense, it may be considered a part of ecclesiastical history; in another, of dogmatic theology. But in consequence of the extent to which these subjects have reached, and the necessity of separating different departments of knowledge, in order to a fundamental discussion of them, the history of doctrines has assumed a place and prominence of its own. If it be rightly treated, few subjects can be more profitable or instructive, either to the student of theology or to the general reader of history, who desires to learn more than the mere succession of outward events, or the striking occurrences that stand out with distinctness in the map of time. It is easy to see how an intelligent attention to the historical development of the principal dogmas of theological science, the phases through which they have passed, the progress and retrogressions they have experienced, the influences that have shaped and moulded them, including even the mental characteristics of leading Church Fathers, will enlarge the vision of the reader, correcting that one-sidedness to

which all are more or less prone. The textual divine who relies on the number or clearness of the individual passages of Scripture that support the dogmas of his creed, alienates himself from the historical or philosophic criticism which a Dogmengeschichte properly written must exemplify. Whether he has arrived at his system by analysis or synthesis, if he confines himself to the Bible, his creed will show little of the comprehension or flexibility, the light and shade of the views held by such as have studied the history of doctrines in the pages of men whose lives and writings reflected Christianity in the past centuries of its existence. Among the numerous German works on Dogmengeschichte, the best are those of Baumgarten-Crusius, Neander, and Baur. Other writers besides these have followed the true method of treating the subject, when they felt that history as well as nature is pervaded by a gradual development in obedience to the law of an inner objective necessity; but none perhaps has produced a work equal in value to any of these, different as the three are among themselves. Treading in the steps of his predecessors, Prof. Nitzsch has given the first part of a new Dogmengeschichte covering most of the patristic period, which he makes to reach from the end of the apostolic time till the middle of the eighth century, and it is within that period that the most momentous problems of theology necessarily present themselves. The author lays out his materials systematically, in a method too artificial perhaps; treating of the founding of the doctrine of the Catholic Church as well as of its development. The latter topic necessarily includes the subjective and objective sides of the development, or, in other words, its factors and dogmatic results.

Prof. Nitzsch has clearly mastered the materials of his subject, and disposes of them with philosophic definiteness. His plan is comprehensive; his judgments seem fair and impartial. He gives in the first instance a general statement, which is followed by a more detailed one printed in a smaller type. As an example of his treatment, we refer to the account of Ebionitism, or to the extended description of Gnosticism. The prolegomena, in which the Messianic idea is unfolded, are good; and the literature of every topic is carefully given. The book, with its two useful indexes, will be found the best and most convenient of all handbooks on the subject, though it will not supersede the necessity of using Baur's large and smaller ones. Whether Prof. Nitzsch has thoroughly digested his materials admits of doubt, because in many places the book reminds us of a compilation. Indeed it is scarcely possible for so young a man to have sifted every subject on which he gives an opinion, with independent judgment. We do not agree with many of his statements, such as his date of Clement's epistle to the Corinthians, of the Testaments of the twelve patriarchs, &c., &c. Nor is he correct in supposing Justin Martyr to have been a Gentile Christian. Rather was he a moderate Jewish Christian, as is clearly established by Willink. No reader, however, can consult the book without profit, because the author has amassed a valuable store of materials, and made them accessible to all. The amount of labour and time spent upon the work cannot have been small; and we hope that it will be

rewarded by a due appreciation on the part of his countrymen, as well as of those English scholars who are in the habit of consulting German theologians. One drawback we must notice, the style in which the book is written, which is stiff, heavy, awkward. Prof. Nitzsch is far from writing good easy German; his sentences are too long and intricate, and his words are not well chosen.

NOVELS OF THE WEEK.

The Vivian Romance. By Mortimer Collins. 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

Janie: a Highland Love Story. By the Hon. Mrs. Henry Weyland Chetwynd. 2 vols. (Chapman & Hall.)

After Baxton's Death. By Morley Farrow. 3 vols. (Tinsley Brothers.)

Lizzie Wentworth: a Story of Real Life. By Benjamin Wilson, M.A. (Virtue & Co.)

In spite of the wild improbability of the story he tells, and a certain frothiness about some parts of the writing, to which an undue use of the first person not a little contributes, we have to thank Mr. Collins for three amusing volumes. They contain so much of incident, and such a number of *dramatis personæ*, that it would be useless to attempt any kind of epitome of the tale; and perhaps such an attempt would be unfair, as forestalling the enjoyment of the novel-reading public. Suffice it to say, that Valentine Vivian is an erratic, rather Byronic, young gentleman of fortune, who, being wearied with the conventionalities of civilized life, sails away for the isles of Greece, and for some time leads a harmless, though apolaustic existence there, till, being smitten by Apollo in the shape of a sunstroke, and having an hereditary tendency to madness, he betakes him to that life of piracy which seems so congenial to the climate. As this classical pursuit draws upon him the unfavourable attention of the Turkish authorities, he ships his rascals off to England, and follows them himself, only stopping to establish in a convent school at Rouen a charming little Greek girl, who has been his ward and companion in the Ægean Sea. Accordingly, at the commencement of the story proper, we find him established at Broadoak, the seat of a solid English squire, the excellent but too undemonstrative husband of a lady much younger than himself. This lady is Vivian's cousin; and in the intervals of burglary and highway robbery, the pastimes which have superseded in his favour the piracy he can no longer indulge in, that methodic madman acquires over her an influence which has tragic consequences. Without any sinister design on Vivian's part, or actual impropriety on hers, it becomes evident to her apparently unmindful husband that his wife's heart is not his own, and being tender, as some plain men are, with a tenderness all the deeper because it cannot be expressed, he resolves to die by a slow poison, and leave the cousins free. He accomplishes his purpose only too well; and Lady Eva, who is accused of his murder, dies shortly afterwards of grief. Vivian, horrified at his cousin's death, is struck with catalepsy, from which at length he is restored by means of a French doctor and the nursing of his good angel, the devoted Greek girl, who has by this time rejoined the hero of her childhood.

The experienced reader will not need to

be told that Earine soon changes her picturesque position for the holy, though less novel, state of matrimony, and makes as fair a figure in one part as the other; while three other couples, whose fortunes are more or less connected with those of the principal personages, are united at nearly the same time. A vengeance, more poetical than just, is taken on the Corsican police-spy, who acts as the evil genius of the piece, and minor characters are satisfactorily disposed of. This bare recapitulation of some of the innumerable incidents of the story will give but a poor idea of a work whose merit clearly does not lie in its plot. Let us add, in justice to the author, that the characters of John Grainger, Blogg, the Fellow of Oriel, Catelan, Earine and Redfern are, if slightly, strongly sketched; and that much of the conversation and some of the easy "verses of society" with which the book abounds, will render it well worth the perusal of the holiday-making public.

'Janie' is what it professes itself—a love story. From first to last we read of nothing but the quarrels and misunderstandings of a pair of lovers. Janie Macniel, the minister's daughter, is betrothed to Ronald Macnab, the laird of Braepuit, and all proceeds smoothly for some time, when Sybil Wilder appears upon the scene, and thereupon Ronald falls desperately in love with her, and follows her to India. Sybil, however, repulses him, and he then promptly writes home to Janie and again offers her his hand and heart, but Janie's father being blind, she from a sense of duty declines to leave him, and the hero's offer is therefore conditionally refused. In the course of a few months the father dies, and Janie writes to Ronald and expresses her willingness to join him in India. Most unfortunately, the inconstant lover has engaged himself to Sybil just three weeks before the receipt of the letter, and Janie's kind offer cannot be accepted. We may mention here, as the only point in the hero's character in his favour, that his feelings do not always change with the same rapidity as his offers, and that at the time of the engagement to Sybil he may be said to have finally "flopped his young affections" upon the faithful Janie, where they are supposed to remain to the end of time. From the very unpleasant state of things existing after the receipt of Janie's letter, we are happily relieved by a bold stroke on the part of Sybil. This young lady is persuaded to take the important step for one of the three following reasons: because she finds out that she is no longer beloved by Ronald; or, as we prefer to think, because being a sensible woman she becomes tired of the endless shilly-shallyings of the hero; or, as the reader may perhaps prefer to imagine, merely from that love of inconstancy which so peculiarly distinguishes the characters of this novel. At any rate, whatever her reasons may be, her action in the matter is simple. She elopes with a Captain Brown three days before that fixed for her wedding with Ronald. What the feelings of the deserted one are we shall not attempt to describe: it is sufficient to say, that again moving with that promptitude which has already gained our admiration, Ronald immediately starts for England to marry Janie. This young lady, however, has by this time very properly become tired of her lover's vagaries, and retires with her nurse to a place of concealment. The usual plan is adopted for drawing the pretty recluse from her retirement. A rock providen-

tially falls on Ronald, and his love is told that he is nearly killed by it. Need we say that he quickly recovers from the blow, and is married to the patient Janie? After this sketch of the tale, our readers will probably agree that detailed criticism is unnecessary. We will only add, that the manner of the writing is on a par with the matter; that is to say, the work as a whole is tame and in parts absolutely wearisome. The perpetual pining and drooping of the heroine almost aggravates a critic beyond endurance, and her power of becoming insensible for several days in succession, after each rebuff from her lover, would alone justify him in refusing to marry her. However, we have said we will not have recourse to criticism in detail, and we keep our word. But as an exception at parting, may we suggest to the author that although the scene of the story is laid in the Highlands, there are Scotch people who have no "Mac" prefixed to their names. In 'Janie' we are treated to nothing but Macs, "Macniel," "Macnab," "Macdonald," "Macpherson," "Mactavish," &c., until we become too confused and bewildered to distinguish one "Mac" from another.

'After Baxtow's Death' is a work of some merit. It contains a sufficiently interesting, though not very original, story, and is pleasantly written. Old Baxtow is a rich man of the eccentric type, who leaves, by will, his large fortune to a nephew, named Philip Burgoyne. This lucky nephew was brought up in a very humble way as a grocer, in a small seaside town, and had accidentally attracted the notice of his wealthy relative, when the latter, in his yacht, had been compelled, by stress of weather, to put into the little seaside haven for shelter. At the time of coming into possession of this fortune, Philip Burgoyne is a mere boy, and, accordingly, has to be educated in a manner suited to his future position in society. He is sent to school at a Mr. Baring's, and there meets Edith Baring, the daughter of the schoolmaster and the heroine of the story, and, need we say? beautiful in the extreme, and as good as she is pretty. When his schooling is done, and certain subsequent travels are got through, Philip settles down on an estate that he purchases, near the Barings, and, of course, proposes to Edith. Instead of acting like a rational being, and accepting the offer, Edith, notwithstanding her love for Philip, must needs refuse him, for no more valid reason than that a young lady friend had told her he had been flirting with a Miss Isabel Archdale. This is certainly the weakest part of the plot. It is simply inconceivable that any young woman, not being a declared lunatic, could make such an abject fool of herself as Miss Baring does in this instance; and how to reconcile the character and ability of Edith, who is described as possessing a fine disposition and great intellectual qualifications, with such idiotic conduct is an undertaking beyond our power. However, these are the facts, and the readers of the novel will have to make the best of them. When the difficulty attending this episode is overcome, the rest is plain sailing. Philip, naturally disgusted at this repulse, very unnaturally goes and proposes straightway to the aforesaid Isabel Archdale, who accepts him, and they are shortly afterwards married. Repentance soon follows. Philip's affections are with Edith, and Isabel's are where they always have been—that is to say,

in the possession of a worthless scamp called Captain Ravenhall. After much unhappiness, Isabel elopes with the Captain, is divorced from Philip, and marries her lover. Philip then proposes again to Edith, but she objects to marry a divorced man while the former wife is alive; and so nothing comes of the proposal. However, after some little time, Isabel very conveniently dies, and Edith marries Philip, and lives happy ever after—at least, we hope so. There are other incidents in the tale, such as a forged will, by which Philip is temporarily ousted from his fortune, but they are not sufficiently striking or original to merit any special notice. It will be seen from the sketch we have given that the story contained in 'After Baxtow's Death' is certainly not remarkable, but it is, with the one exception recorded above, natural and tolerably pleasing; and this, coupled with an easy and vigorous style of writing, makes the novel one to which we can award a considerable amount of praise without declaring it distinguished by any strikingly great qualities.

"When lovely woman stoops to folly" it is her family, friends and relatives on whom she brings the heaviest share of the burden of shame and grief which she has entailed upon herself. It would be well, if a story must be written at all upon "*Seduction*," to write what should strengthen the mind of female readers, and to inculcate lessons of self-respect and self-government; to teach them to consider before they "love too well," that the honour, not of their own good name alone, but that of their whole kindred is committed to their keeping; that it is a trust which it is dishonourable and disgraceful to yield up at the solicitation of any lover; and that in this case especially, self-sacrifice signifies reckless selfishness for the gratification of a headstrong inclination. Such teaching is, in our opinion, the only reason which makes it permissible to select *Seduction* as the leading incident of a tale. In the matter of 'Lizzie Wentworth' there is nothing but a maudlin attempt to rouse sympathy with the weakness of a passion entirely devoid of any principle of respect and honour towards the lover, such as makes the gift of a good woman's love the greatest blessing and the highest honour a good man can obtain. The aim of the author is to lay all the blame of the sin of seduction upon the man, and to appeal against the laws that make the consequences so heavy upon a woman. Lizzie Wentworth is left dying in prison, for abandoning her infant, whilst "the majestic looking" Dudley is married to his cousin—the Lady Mary Jane Seymour—a rich banker and a prosperous man. He is a thoroughly selfish, worthless man, and we wish the Lady Mary Jane joy of her husband; but his worthlessness is not the cause of Lizzie Wentworth's radical weakness of nature, nor the cause of the entire want of all common sense or ordinary discretion that she manifests from one end of the story to the other. The punishment of her errors is certainly as hard as the author can make it; but no law of any land can alter the melancholy fact that all weakness is fatal to the possessor. It is well to have societies for protecting the weak from the strong, so far as legal enactments can befriended them, but as regards women, the true charity is to teach them to try to be strong from the heart; the world has no pity for weakness, and "to be

weak is to be miserable." Above all we would inculcate the moral, that if woman, lovely or unlovely, stoops to folly, she must pay the penalty. There is no power that can redeem man or woman from the consequences of their own acts. The punishments may differ, but they surely arrive.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

The History of the Borough, Castle and Barony of Alnwick. By George Tate. 2 vols. (Alnwick, Blair.)

OUR readers need not be informed of the pleasure with which we see all attempts to investigate and preserve local history. Where the attempt is successful, our gratification is still higher. Mr. Tate has succeeded, as his labour and judgment deserved, and we congratulate him on having added a couple of valuable volumes to the history of Northumberland. With that portion of the county called Alnwick, the general public are not extensively acquainted. Tourists have looked at it. They have perhaps sat in Hotspur's chair, glanced at Alnwick Abbey and Hulm Priory, visited romantic Warkworth, and pic-nicked at various spots connected with legends and ham-sandwiches. But this is little or nothing. Alnwick's greatness is in its history. It has not always been the dignified sleepy hollow it looks to modern eyes. The echoes of war have awakened it; flame, sword, and other instruments of men's passions have swept it; soldier and priest have alternately, or together, held it beneath their equally heavy thumbs—only one was covered with steel, and the other with velvet. It shared in all Border incidents, and was exposed to all the political dangers of olden times, when the people on either side of the Border saw no prosperity in peace, and when South Scots and North Britons were disposed to say *Amen* to the prayer of the Highland Chief, "Lord, turn the world upside down, that honest men may make bread of it!" Since Alnwick ceased to be the stage on which history was acted, various pens and pencils have been busy with preserving its records and its ancient features. About half a century ago, the Duchess Charlotte Florentia added herself to the list of noble authors by her graceful publications, which illustrated with much beauty the house and vicinity where she and her husband, Duke Hugh, may be said to have "reigned" with dignity and beneficence. We have now the more solid and business-like volumes by Mr. Tate. Compared with the Duchess's work, they are what a merchant's ledger might be, compared with the pocket-book entries of the head of the firm. Mr. Tate, however, has made his ledger amusing as well as learned by notes. His book adds some very curious chapters to the social, political, and religious history of England, and especially, of course, to the local history of Alnwick, which town has had a remarkable number of worthies to do it honour; and in the vicinity of which there is a *Rotten Row*, in finding a derivation for which the etymologists are at their wits' ends. On the subject of the female baronies held by the Duke of Northumberland, we learn from Mr. Tate that the childless Algernon (fourth Duke) and his childless sister, Lady Agnes Buller, joined to cut off the entail of the female baronies, which shut out the succession of the ducal family of Athole. The succession had been carried into the last family by the sister of Algernon and Agnes—Emily, who married the eccentric Lord Glenlyon, and whose son was the late Duke of Athole. The late Duke of Athole's son is now, himself, not only Duke of Athole but Baron Percy. This barony is, surely, a female barony. Elizabeth Percy succeeded to it in 1750, and it was inherited at her death, in 1776, her ducal husband surviving, by her eldest son. It vested in him and successive Dukes till the death of Duke Algernon, in 1865, when it passed to the present Duke of Athole (grandson of the Emily named above) as a barony in fee.

London Characters and the Humorous Side of London Life. With Illustrations. (Rivers & Co.)

THIS is a light, amusing series of slight sketches. The illustrations are better than the letter-press; but the book is lively, and will give an hour's amusement to those who live in London and are not averse to being told about the things and people they can see from their windows, as children like to have their picture-books explained, and people who live in the country may like to read about the humorous side of London life whilst sitting under the shadow of their own garden.

Burton-on-Trent: its Waters, and its Breweries. By W. Molyneux. (Burton-on-Trent, Whitehurst; London, Trübner & Co.)

Tintern Abbey and its Founders, comprising a Revision and Correction of preceding Accounts, with numerous additional Particulars, hitherto Uncollected; including the Dates of its various Buildings. By John Taylor. (Chepstow, Griffith; London, Houlston & Wright.)

EXCURSIONISTS, that is, people who fancy they ought to be anywhere else than where they are, are hard put to it this year. War and the small-pox divide Europe between them. Ireland loses its ordinary charms. The Liffey strikes the offended sense with double stink, and appears to have become intolerable even to the Dublin people themselves. There is talk of typhus about the country; and just now, a traveller who may have more the air of a master-tailor than of a squire would do as well to stay away from Cork, where "strikes" have a more forcible signification than they, sometimes, have in England. Why, therefore, should our railroad companies not give England a turn? Circular tours to all the great ecclesiastical ruins, with leave to stop at all places where, as at Burton, good ale is brewed and sold, would be a charming and novel reality. The two little but learned and satisfactory books would be of the greatest value to travellers, who have a taste for antiquities and an honest thirst for Pale Ale: that is, as far as Tintern and Burton are concerned. The books are not ordinary "Guides," they are written by competent gentlemen and scholars, and stand distinguished among such works for the curious and ample (often amusing) information which they afford. The Ale and the Abbey at Burton go together. From the time the Abbey was completed, Burton Ale was drunk there and throughout the valley. The modern Burton Ale trade is set down as dating from 1708. Londoners fancy Pale Ale to be a modern luxury, but the following advertisement which we take from the *London Post* (Nov. 1700), shows the contrary:—"At a vault next to the Weavers Arms, in Duke Street, in the Old Artillery Ground, will be sold Pale Ale, Nottingham, Derby, &c., by the Winchester gallon; in great or small quantities, and far cheaper than any sold in town. Attendance will be given there on every Tuesday and Friday afternoon. Any merchant or others may be furnished at 10s. or 15s. per tun." In those days, it was a hard matter to get to Burton or Tintern, or to any place two or three miles from London. The suburbs of our capital were infested with bands of highwaymen and footpads, and nobody dared go after dusk as far as Kensington Gravel Pits, or the end of rural Gray's Inn Lane, without goodly stout company with him. Even then, men and women, they might be outnumbered by the thieves, who, as the papers pleasantly stated, "unrigged them all," that is, stripped them to the skin, after robbing them of all besides! The counties then had their distinctive marks. A witness once remarked of two highwaymen on a Wiltshire Common, "I know they come from Sussex, by the clay on their boots." Those were romantic times, but we prefer the prosaic age which gives us our metal roads, and such helpers on our journeys as Mr. Molyneux and the Librarian of the Bristol Library.

WE have on our table *Wyld's Theatre of War* (Wyld),—*Three Maps of Central Europe* (Johnston),—*History of England from the Fall of Wolsey to the Defeat of the Spanish Armada*, by J. A. Froude,

M.A., Vols. III. and IV. (Longmans),—*Strong and Free; or, First Steps towards Social Science*, by the Author of 'My Life, and What shall I do with It?' (Longmans),—*Notes on Electricity*, by J. Tyndall, LL.D. (Longmans),—*On the Laws and Customs relating to Marriage*, by R. Harte (Truelove),—*The Commercial Gazetteer*, by a Mercantile Man (Hamilton, Adams & Co.),—*The Finding of the Book*, by J. Robertson (Ramsgate, Scott),—*Murby's Scripture Manuals: the Book of Genesis*, by a Practical Teacher (Murby),—and *What saith the Scripture*, by H. Dunn (Simpkin). Among new editions we have *An Elementary Course of Botany*, by A. Henfrey (Van Voorst),—*An Elementary Course of Plane Geometry and Mensuration*, by R. Wormell, M.A. (Murby),—*Force and Matter*, by Dr. Louis Buchner (Trübner),—*The Laboratory Guide*, by A. H. Church, M.A. (Van Voorst),—*On the Preservation of Health*, by T. Inman, M.D. (Lewis),—*Memoirs of Major-General Sir Henry Havelock*, K.C.B., by J. C. Marshman (Longmans),—and *Little Willie*, by M. Barr (Longmans). Also the following pamphlets: *Earthquakes and Volcanic Eruptions*, by R. Mansill (Rock Islands, Ills.),—*Illustrations of Masonic Clothing and Jewels* (G. Kenning),—*Parables of Fiction*, by J. P. Ham (Trübner),—*Righteousness Exalteth a Nation*, by Rev. W. Farrar, M.A. (Longmans),—and *Le Participe Présent*, par M. Subjonctif.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

The Civil Service Orthography: a Handy-Book of English Spelling. By E. S. H. B. (Lockwood & Co.)

WE are not a little astonished that any one should call this 'A Handy-Book of English Spelling,' and have no hesitation in pronouncing it to be about the most cumbersome and unsuitable book for practical purposes that could well have been devised. It would be next to impossible for any ordinary child to learn all the rhymed rules, and much easier, to learn the spelling of words in lists than such a couplet as the following, taken at random:—

C-e-l-i, to cell a ceiling shows;
S-e-a-l with an s, sea-calf, and seal to close.

Clarendon Press Series.—English Poems, by John Milton. Edited, with Life, Introduction and Selected Notes, by R. C. Browne, M.A. 2 vols. (Macmillan & Co.)

IT is now generally admitted that our own language and literature ought to find a place in public-school education; and the Delegates of the Clarendon Press have done useful service in issuing such excellent works as Morris's 'Specimens of Early English' and 'Chaucer,' and Kitchen's two books of Spenser's 'Faery Queene,' to which the editor of Milton often refers. A life of Milton, recounting all the material facts simply and impartially, is followed by an able introduction, describing his works and pointing out their connexion with his character and time. The notes, derived from the best sources, are well stored with expository and illustrative matter, though comparatively brief, and nothing is wanting to render the work well worthy of a place in the series to which it belongs.

Second French Course; or, French Syntax and Reader. By C. A. Chardenal, B.A. (Longmans & Co.)

THE most useful rules of French syntax are here exemplified by exercises in French and English, to be translated. Irregular verbs are combined with the rules, and a number of English sentences, involving various moods and tenses, are added for translation into French. The second part is composed of extracts from the best French writers, including the most recent, with a few notes explaining difficult or idiomatic phrases. With the 'First French Course,' by the same author, it may serve as a means of acquiring a sound knowledge of the language.

Clarendon Press Series.—French Classics: a Selection of Plays by Corneille, Molière and Racine. Edited, with English Notes, by G. Masson, B.A. (Macmillan & Co.)

THE plays in this third volume are Molière's 'Les Fourberies de Scapin' and Racine's 'Athalie.' To

the former is prefixed Voltaire's 'Life of Molière' and a sketch of French dramatic literature, from Corneille to Racine, by the editor; and to the latter Sainte-Beuve's notice on 'Athalie.' The material for the notes has been selected with great judgment from the best commentators, and supplemented by valuable observations from the editor's pen. There is no English edition of the French classics at all to be compared with this for scholarship and completeness.

A Practical Grammar of the German Language. By William Eysenbach. (Leipzig, Wigand; London, Asher.)

THE principle on which this grammar is based is that German should be learned in the same way as a child would learn the language of his own country. An extreme simplicity is to be observed at the outset. Single phrases, with minute variations, form the earlier lessons. Of course, the real test of such a work is the practical test, and that it is impossible for us to apply; but we think Mr. Eysenbach's method promises well.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Theology.

Parker's *The City Temple: Sermons in Poultry Chapel*, 8vo. 6s. Hutchinson's *History of the Athanasian Creed*, new edit. 5s. cl.

Poetry.

Neville's *The Cross, and Verses of Many Years*, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl. Tupper's (*M. F.*) *A Creed*, &c., 8vo. 1/1 swd.

History.

War (The) *Book and Gazetteer*, No. 1, 8vo. 1/1 swd.

Geography.

Heywood's *Tourist's Guide to Wales*, 12mo. 1/6 swd. Hutchinson's *Try Llandudno*; a Fresh Field for Summer Tourists, illust. cr. 8vo. 6s. cl.

Smith's *Map of the Seat of War*, coloured, 1/1 folded. Stanford's *Military Map of the Franco-Prussian Frontier*, 1/1 Stannard's *Panoramic Birdseye View of France and Prussia*, 2/1

Philology.

Noiret's *French Course in Ten Lessons*, Part I., cr. 8vo. 1/6 Swahili Language (The), Handbook of, edit. by E. Steere, 7/6 Wessely's *New Pocket Dictionary of the English and French Language*, 1/6 cl. limp.

Science.

Scoffern's *Stray Leaves of Science and Folk Lore*, 8vo. 12s. cl.

General Literature.

Bridge's *Letters to a Friend*, 12mo. 2s. cl. Cassell's *Magazine*, new series, Vol. 1, illust. roy. 8vo. 6/6 cl. Close of S. Andrews, or *Cathedral Lights and Shadows*, 3/6 Crut Stand (The), or *Sauce Piquante to suit all Tastes*, 12mo. 2s. Davenant's *What shall my Son be?* cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl. Debreit's *Titled Men*, 1870-1, cr. 8vo. 1/6 cl. Good Stories, 20th Series, cr. 8vo. 1/6 cl. limp. Illustrated (The) *London News*, Vol. 56, folio 18s. cl. Keble's (The) *Agricultural Labourer*, his Position, cr. 8vo. 6s. McCarthy's *My Enemy's Daughter*, cheap edit. 12mo. 2s. bds. Madre Natura versus the Moloch of Fashion, a Social Essay, by Luke Limmer, cr. 8vo. 2s. swd. Prichard's *Chronicles of Bangalore*, 2 vols. 12mo. 12s. cl. Scott's *Miscellaneous Prose Works*, Vol. 19 and 20, 3/6 ea. Scott's *Waverley Novels*, Centenary Edit., Vol. 8, 'Bride of Lammermoor,' cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl. Scottish Poor Laws, their Policy, History, &c., by Scotus, 7/6 Short Tales for Young Readers, edited by R. Pastor, 12mo. 1/6 Stubb's *Guide to Pawnbroking*, new edit., 12mo. 1/6 bds. Vine's *Home-made Wines*, How to make and keep Them, 1/1

CAXTONS.

MR. WM. BLADES continues his Caxton labours. In order to stimulate the search for fresh copies or bits of Caxtons, he has printed a handy little guide—'How to tell a Caxton'—with fac-similes of all Caxton's types, hints as to where to find new copies, an encouraging list of those lately discovered, and a complete list of all the books, &c. attributed to Caxton. He uses a word new to us, "Bibliotaph," for a collector who buys more books than he can arrange for use, and therefore buries them. Richard Heber was certainly a "Bibliotaph." Mr. Blades is a genuine enthusiast: "I turned it aside with my foot, and beneath was an old folio, the first sight of which made my heart beat: it seemed impossible, and yet it was a genuine Caxton, the second edition of 'Chaucer's Canterbury Tales,' with numerous woodcuts." Its use had been to contribute leaves to light the vestry fires at the French Protestant Church in St. Martin-le-Grand, London.

THE SOLAR MYTH.

I WISH to make a suggestion to the comparative mythologists, if you will permit me to do so by means of your pages. It seems to me that in their exceedingly interesting explanations of

the legendary conflicts of the Sun-god, they do not sufficiently consider the Thunder-storm as a part of the Sun-myth. To the primeval mind the lightning and the sun's beams—in fact, flame in all its forms—must have seemed one and the same power; surely, then, the lightning, rather than the sunbeams (see page 49 of vol. I. of Mr. Cox's 'Aryan Mythology') must have originated the idea of his poisoned and inevitable arrows; and a thunderstorm,—especially one at night, when he must have appeared to be still in the sky, though shrouded by the darkness, and in conflict with it, and shattering the dark monster-clouds with his bright weapons,—must have been much more suggestive of tremendous toils and battles, than his daily effects upon the earth followed by the splendour of the sunset, or than the mere bursting forth of his beams after a period during which he was hidden by clouds. The dreadfulness attributed to the sound of Apollo's bow is also explained by the thunder, if the lightnings, instead of the sunbeams, were his darts and arrows. It is not at all incompatible with this idea that further experience may have recognized the fiery weapons as belonging to the monsters themselves, or attributed the thunder and lightning to other gods, since the solar myth seems to have been born of primeval impressions. Another thing strikes me: the notion of the Dawn as spinning or weaving should surely be referred to the gossamers threaded with dew or fog drops, which so often on an autumn morning, like a rime frost, turn a garden into a fairy-land, rather than to the morning clouds, which, though called "fleece," do not suggest the idea of weaving, still less of spinning. Whether, indeed, the gossamer-spider spun in the early morning land of the Aryan race I do not know; but, according to Mr. Cox, it is chiefly in the Teutonic legends that the Dawn-maidens spin; and in lands inhabited by Teutonic races the gossamer-threads must always have been a noteworthy feature of early morning.

J. M. HAYWARD.

ROMANCES OF CHIVALRY AND RARE BOOKS.

THE sale of the library of Mr. R. P. Roupell, Q.C., was completed last week at the Rooms of Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge. The prices of some of the rarer books will perhaps be interesting to some of our readers. The Romance of Pierabras, printed at Lyon circa 1480, with a leaf in fac-simile, 149l.—Damerval, Livre de la Deablerie en Vers, Paris, 1508, 43l.—Chartier, Les Faictes ou Dictes et Ballades touchant les Guerres Faictes par les Angloys, printed in Paris by Treperel & Jehannot, 18l.—Gyron le Courtoys, printed circa 1499 by Verard, two leaves in fac-simile, 39l.—Hakluyt's Voyages, with the suppressed Voyage to Cadiz, 3 vols. 18l. 5s.—Flores de Grèce, Paris, 1552, 14l. 14s.—Franc le Champion des Dames, printed circa 1485, at Lyon, 50l.—Marguerite de Valois, Heptameron, 3 vols. 16l.—Huon de Bordeaux, printed by Bonfons, 15l.—Jamyn, Œuvres Poétiques, Paris, 1575, 9l.—Jodelle, Œuvres, Paris, 1574, 9l. 10s.—La Borde, Choix de Chansons, 4 vols. in 2, 28l.—Higden's Polychronicon, printed by Treveris, 15l. 15s.—Holinshed's Chronicles, 3 vols. in 2, 16l. 15s.—Johnson's Lives of Highwaymen, 13l. 5s.—Jardin de Plaisance, 8l. 18s. 6d.—Judas Machabeus, Paris, 1514, 13l. 15s.—Lancelot du Lac, printed by Petit, slightly defective, 22l.—Millet, Hystoire de la Destruction de Troye, 11l.—Ogier le Danoys, printed by Bonfons, 19l.—Meliadus le Leonnoys, Paris, 1532, 28l.—Mystere des Actes des Apostres, 13l.—Palmerin d'Angleterre, Lyon, 1552, 6l. 17s. 6d.—Perrault, Les Hommes illustres, with the suppressed Lives and Portraits of Arnauld and Pascal, 14l. 5s.—Pinder, Speculum Passionis Christi, with woodcuts by Hans Schanfelein, 10l.—Rommant de la Rose, Paris, 1531, sold for 12l. 5s., but subsequently re-sold, as wanting last leaf, for 7l. 10s.—Poliphili Hypnerotomachia, with exquisite wood engravings, from designs attributed to Bellini, Raffaele, Francia, or Andrea del Mantegna, sold for 35l., but on collation, proving to want four leaves, was re-sold for 23l.—General Wolfe's In-

structions and Placart to the Canadians, 2l. 4s.—Valentin et Orson, printed by A. Lotrian, 20l.—Ysaie le Triste, printed by Bonfons, 26l. 10s.—Vergier d'Honneur, printed by Petit, 8l. 15s.—Hystoire du Saint Greal, Paris, 1523, 50l.—Shakespeare's Plays, second edition, 23l.; third edition, 24l.; fourth edition, 12l. 15s.—Tristan Chevalier de la Table Ronde, printed in 1496, by Verard, but several leaves in fac-simile, 33l.—Tristan le Leonnoys, Paris, 1554, 10l. 17s. 6d.—Webster on Witchcraft, 11l. 15s. The entire sale produced 2,089l. 16s. 6d.

THE CELTIC LANGUAGES.

Dublin.

I FIND that in a review of Mr. Wordsworth's 'Letters Introductory to a History of the Latin Language and Literature' (Athen. June 18, p. 797) I am represented as holding the opinion that the Celtic languages are more nearly related to the Teutonic (i.e. Germanic) than to the Italic (i.e. Latin, Oscan, Umbrian). I, indeed, was once inclined to that opinion, when I was very young, and, I may say, nearly ignorant of Celtic matters, viz., in an essay to be found in Kuhn's *Zeitschrift* of 1857, Vol. VII. But I adopted another opinion afterwards, which may be seen in Kuhn's *Beiträge*, Vol. II., p. 321, where I said: "According to the preceding remarks, it would seem that from the European original nation ('Urvolk'), first of all the Greeks parted. Afterwards, it would appear that the remaining European Indo-Germans have separated into two sections, the South-Western and the Northern. The first-named, it seems, has again become divided into the Celts and the Italic people, whereas the second subdivided into Germani and Slavonians" (the latter word is used here in a wider sense). "The Slavonians, in their turn divided into Slavonians proper and Lettonians" (including Lettonians proper, Prussians and Lituanians).

This was written in 1859. I have had no reason since to alter my opinion, although it must be observed that more than probability is not to be arrived at in these dark regions. It will be seen that I am substantially in unison with Schleicher.

C. LOTTNER.

THE DANISH LEGEND OF HOLGER.

M. L. Pio has, according to M. Gaston Paris, in the *Revue Critique*, lately published at Copenhagen a very important work on *Holger Danske*, the popular Danish hero, whose name coincides with the hero of French Carolingian romance, *Ogier le Danois*, but has nothing else in common with him. Holger is shut up in a mountain or a cavern, with his warriors around him; and will one day issue from his hiding-place, mount his white horse, fight a great battle with the evil ones, the Pagan enemies of Denmark, and then inaugurate a new reign of justice, of bliss for the whole land. M. Pio finds traces of the legend in England, France, the Low Countries especially, over all Europe, and beyond. For this idea of a Liberator, which finds its highest expression in Christ, is common to nearly all peoples; and M. Pio holds, that from the sun, which every spring renews the world, the notion sprang, and embodied itself in Balder, Holger, Arthur, &c. To those who may not follow M. Pio in his comparative-mythological investigations or speculations, his book is still of great value, as it includes all the Danish legends about Holger, and whatever of Danish mythology the writer finds in England.

NOTES FROM TURKEY.

A MEASURE, which is of more than educational importance, is the establishment of a course of lectures on Ottoman law at Constantinople. This is said to be as a temporary substitute, while the faculty of Laws is being organized, and only to be applicable to the clerks and registrars of the law courts. As there is a very ancient faculty of the law at Constantinople, that of the Ulema, with the Sheikh ul Islam at the head, the new institution is of great significance. It is the main step

in the long course of policy for the emancipation of the civil government from the independent and hostile influence of the Ulema. The new codes have already ousted much of the jurisdiction of the sacred code, and the functions of the learned judges have been much circumscribed. The next step will be an examination for the inferior judgeships. This great reform in the practice of Islam can hardly fail ultimately to extend to other portions of the Mussulman world. Who knows! perhaps some day law and equity may be combined by the Ulema of England.

The *Levant Herald* announces that the Council of Public Instruction in Turkey has just opened a competition for new school-books in Turkish. We may observe that there is already a considerable supply of books by men of eminence printed at the Imperial Press, but the Council feel that the time has come for further advancement. The prizes are liberal, and include a first and second prize. Turkish first primer, 50l. and 20l.; short elementary treatise on morals, 50l. and 30l.; elementary biography, 50l. and 30l.; school grammar, 120l. and 80l.; geography, 50l. and 30l.; short Ottoman history, 50l. and 30l.; short Insha, or letter-writer, a very useful school-book of old institution, 50l. and 30l.; poetry book, 50l. and 30l.; orthography, 40l. and 30l.; first reading-book, 50l. and 30l.; writing copies, 50l. and 30l. We may observe on this text that it shows a skilful design to make the schools more Turkish and national, displacing the old classical system based on the Arabic. The history, biography and poetry from Ottoman sources will for the first time make Ottoman literature popular, instead of confining it to the higher classes. At present there is nothing but ballad poetry, oral tales, and the performances of Kara Gueuz, or Punch, for the general public, with some sermons. The national poets and historians, chiefly in MSS., are treasured in libraries. The prizes for a Turkish elementary grammar are, it will be noticed, much higher than the others, Turkish grammar, like English half a century ago, being neglected, and foreign classical grammar replacing it. The Ottoman grammar of Fuad Pasha may now penetrate among the masses. We must, however, remember that the war threatens to interfere with these reforms.

Literary Gossip.

WE understand Mr. John Morley's article on Turgot, which appears in the August number of the *Fortnightly Review*, is but an instalment of a biography of the great Economist on which Mr. Morley is engaged.

THE first portion of the eighth edition of Tischendorf's Greek Testament is just published, containing the Acts, the Epistles of St. James and St. Peter, and part of 1 St. John. It consists of 320 pages of closely but clearly printed matter. The indefatigable author will probably complete the whole work, including the prolegomena, which may form a separate volume, before the end of 1871. We are glad to see a very decided improvement on the seventh edition, which could not present the readings of S; nor those of B quite accurately.

THE death, on the 25th ult., of Mr. Edmund Forster Blanchard, youngest son of Mr. Laman Blanchard, is announced. He was well known in literary and journalistic circles, and much liked on account of his genial nature, and for the spirited and generous manner in which he treated the subjects with which he had to deal. He contributed to many magazines and reviews, and was for a considerable time connected with *Lloyd's Newspaper*. Jointly with Mr. Edward Wilberforce he published, a few years since, a small volume of poems.

PROF. SYLVESTER has completed a work on the laws of verse, which will be published in

a few days. The book is dedicated to Mr. Matthew Arnold.

It is rumoured that Mr. Bryant, encouraged, we presume, by the success of his version of the 'Iliad,' is devoting himself to the task of translating the 'Odyssey.'

"WAR MAPS" are getting more and more numerous. The English ones first published were indifferent; those now coming out, such as Mr. Wyld's large one, are better: some of the German ones are good. In Paris, MM. Hachette have issued a set of trustworthy maps selected from the *Guides Joanne*. M. Sagansan advertises a large travelling map, which shows the roads and railways clearly.

WE learn from the last number of *La Filosofia delle Scuole Italiane* that it is proposed to erect a monument to the Marchesa M. F. Waddington. Signor Mamiani, the President of the Society for the Promotion of Philosophy, will receive subscriptions.

HISTORICAL Literature is getting into a dilapidated condition in these disturbed times. At a meeting at Ennis on Sunday night a Mr. John Ginnane expressed a hope that "the Eagle of France may be as triumphant in the present struggle as it was of old on the plains of Fontenoy." The Eagle at Fontenoy is quite an original idea.

At a moment when the Pope is putting himself on an equality with God, it may be of interest to know that in the year 1707 the French Academy offered a prize for a poem the subject of which was that the French Monarch was at least superior to humanity. The theme for the poet to illustrate was "That the King's wisdom renders him superior to all manner of events."

A NEW reprint of the 'Account of the Surname of Baird' is ready for publication. It contains several letters and family papers that now appear in print for the first time.

A GERMAN translation of 'In Memoriam' has appeared, under the title 'Freundes-Klage.' This is the first attempt to render Mr. Tennyson's poem into a foreign language.

WE regret to learn that Mr. G. Hodder has died of the effects of the injuries he received some weeks ago at Richmond. Mr. Hodder, who was educated at Christ's Hospital, was long and honourably known as a London journalist, and in April last he published an interesting volume called 'Memories of My Time,' which contained personal reminiscences of Jerrold, Thackeray, &c.

THE titles of the books at present advertised in France are all more or less warlike. Popular serials like 'La France Guerrière' and 'L'Histoire de la Campagne de Prusse' abound; and pamphlets such as 'L'Équilibre en Europe' are appearing in numbers, as pamphlets always do appear at Paris when there is any crisis. The most notable of these publications is M. Guizot's pamphlet, 'La France et la Prusse responsables devant l'Europe.' M. Louis Figuier, after popularizing all branches of natural science by means of a lively style and plenty of semi-sensational illustrations, has taken to popularizing military science and discoursing on rifles and armour-plating.

THE Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres reports the completion of the second part of the 26th volume of its Memoirs, in-

cluding M. N. de Wailly's study of the *Langue de Joinville*; the 7th and 8th volumes of the Memoirs of foreign Savants are at press; the last portion of the 16th volume of the 'Gallia Christiana' has been issued by M. Hauréau; lastly, the 23rd volume of 'Historiens de la France,' by MM. de Wailly, Léopold Delisle, and Huellard Bréholle, is completed with the exception of the tables.

In the recently published volume of the Académie des Sciences Morales, we have among other matters, Rapports, by M. Rémusat, on 'Les résultats du concours de 1868, qui avait pour objet l'examen détaillé et approfondi des raisons sur lesquelles repose le scepticisme idéaliste auquel est attaché le nom de Kant'; by M. Caro on M. Aubertin's 'Sénèque et St. Paul'; and by M. Vacherot on M. Ribot's 'Psychologie Anglaise'; 'Observations on the Movement in Germany for the Abolition of Capital Punishment,' by M. Ch. Lucas; a Memoir by M. Legoyt, 'Du Mouvement de la Population en France de 1861 à 1865'; and a Study by M. Nourrisson, on 'Alexander Aphrodisiensis.'

A BOOK interesting to philologists is 'Harbaugh's Harfe,' a volume of poems in the German dialect of Pennsylvania, recently published in America. The author, who died lately, was the great-grandson of a Swiss who settled in Pennsylvania in 1736.

A TRANSLATION of 'The Mystery of Edwin Drood,' by Mrs. Van Westrheene, is being published in the Netherlands. Two numbers have already appeared.

THE French Minister of Foreign Affairs has communicated to the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, an account of a discovery recently made by M. Baillieu in the isle of Oahu, one of the Sandwich Islands, of an oval-shaped stone about a foot in height and more than two feet in its greatest width, and having a cavity formed near the centre capable of containing about four gallons of liquid. M. Baillieu supposes the stone to have been an antique altar for human sacrifice. The altar, or whatever it may be, is on its way to France.

ITALIAN works seem to be popular in Germany, if we are to judge from the number of translations into German recently published; amongst them may be mentioned, Two Novelle of Silvio Pellico, by P. Stehsens; Signor Giacometti's 'Il Millionario e l'Artista,' by E. Poeger; Prof. Angelo De Gubernatis' 'Il Re Nala,' by Friedrich Marx; Massimo d'Azeglio's 'I miei Ricordi,' by an anonymous translator; and a capital version of Leopardi's Poems, by Herr Gustav Brandes, whose work is specially deserving of commendation.

A SECOND edition has appeared of Count Luigi Cibrario's work, 'Origine e Progressi delle Istituzioni della Monarchia di Savoia,' which gives a very good account of the institutions of the Monarchy of Savoy up to the establishment of the united kingdom of Italy.

SIGNOR ENRICO FANO's recent work, 'La Carita Preventiva,' furnishes a valuable account of the constitution and working of societies of mutual aid in Italy, as compared with those of other countries. Signor Fano has for many years devoted his energies to the promotion of such institutions, and has met with much success.

THE published series of Herr J. R. Thorbecke's Parliamentary Speeches has now reached to September, 1865, and to a price of 2*l.*, showing how parliamentary literature is cultivated in Holland.

THE Maharajah of Rewah has given 2,000*l.* to the pundits of Benares, who composed a poetical garland of flowers for the Duke of Edinburgh, on His Royal Highness visiting the sacred city.

THE American Philological Association meets this year at Rochester, N.Y.

SIGNOR EUGENIO CAMERINI contributes to the July number of the *Nuova Antologia* an interesting article on Charles Dickens's Life and Works.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—Prof. Pepper's New Lecture, showing how the marvellous GHOST EFFECTS are produced.—New Musical Entertainment, by George Buckland, 'The Wicked Uncle; or, Hush-bye-Babes in the Wood.'—Sand and the Suez Canal.—American Organ daily.—The whole for One Shilling.

SCIENCE

The Snakes of Australia; an Illustrated and Descriptive Catalogue of all the Known Species. By Gerard Krefft. (Sydney.)

THE natural sciences already owe much to the establishment, now becoming so general, of local museums in various parts of the world, and especially in our own colonies and dependencies; and as the working officers of such institutions are ordinarily persons of considerable attainments in the sciences to which the collections are devoted, the catalogues of their contents, when well drawn up, frequently afford much new information on the natural history, geographical distribution, and economics of the animal, vegetable, and mineral products of the respective countries. The present contribution to the zoology of one of the most important of our dependencies, although unpretentious in its form and tone, constitutes a really valuable addition to the systematic knowledge of the department on which it treats. The author is the curator and secretary—in fact, the mainstay and life, of the Australian museum, established at Sydney; and there is an additional interest attached to the work from its having been written, printed, and published, and the illustrations drawn and lithographed in the colony. In every respect it is most creditable to all concerned in its production. It contains good descriptions of the species, and occasional interesting remarks on their habits, when they offer any peculiarities worth recording.

On analyzing the Catalogue, one is struck with the unusually large proportion of venomous species; and, although most of these can scarcely be considered as dangerous to human life, they are capable of inflicting so much injury as to render them a formidable source of mischief and annoyance. According to our analysis of Mr. Krefft's enumeration, we find but twenty-three innocuous species, whilst there are no fewer than sixty that are venomous, of which fifteen are sea-snakes. In Tasmania he records but three species, all venomous; but it is probable that more will be found in that island when it is further investigated by Mr. Krefft himself, or some other competent erpetologist. It is also remarkable that not one of the Australian ophidians is recorded by Günther as occurring in any part of India, with the exception of the

true sea-snakes, and of these all are common to the coasts of both countries, excepting two, of which however the locality is altogether doubtful, as the only authority for their being indigenous to Australia is the existence of two specimens of one of the species, and one of the other, in the museum at Sydney, without any recorded habitat.

Mr. Krefft very properly ignores the exaggerated stories of sensational travellers, on the enormous size and formidable character of the pythons and boas; but we think, on the other hand, that he gives them credit for a less destructive power than they really possess. It is, no doubt, true that, unless when stimulated by hunger, or greatly irritated, they are sluggish enough and innocuous; but when ready to feed, and especially when about to cast their skins, and the corneæ of the eyes are opaque, they are indiscriminate in their attacks, and might be fatal by the powerful grasp of their folds. Mr. Krefft has the following facts illustrative of his favourable view of their character:—

"We remember a gallant commander of the Royal Navy, who (taking a stroll after lunch at the back of a friend's garden at Sydney) observed a large python, or 'diamond snake,' basking in the sun. American and South African travellers would probably have buckled on their armour and tried a shot at it from a safe distance, but Captain S. quietly caught the reptile by the neck, and carried it to the museum. On another occasion, Captain P., formerly of the P. and O. service, brought a fine python, 12 feet long, from Ceylon, and terrible stories were told of how the reptile had devoured the ship's pet monkey, when it ventured too near its den. As it was intended for presentation to the museum, one of the officers of that institution was despatched to take charge of it. Armed with a bag, he arrived on board, listened to the stories of captain and crew, and—turned the snake out on deck. Of course, there was a general commotion; the Lascars went aloft, and nobody would assist to hold open the bag—which, by the way, proved too small for the reptile, so a larger one had to be provided, and the snake was safely lodged therein without further assistance or accident."

Now for an incident illustrating the other phase of the question, which occurred within the knowledge of the writer of the present notice. We well remember, when the Tower Menagerie was in existence, that the life of the keeper, Copps, was placed in danger by an attack of a reptile of this kind. He was in a small room where a large boa was loose and roaming about, when he took it up in his arms in order to convey it to its box. The creature was hungry and nearly blind from the loosening of the skin of the corneæ. It seized the hand of Copps and instantly threw its coils around his body, fixing his arms and compressing the chest so as to arrest respiration. He was thrown to the ground, when his wife, passing by the door of the room, heard the struggle, and called a keeper, who came just in time, by unwinding the folds of the serpent, to save her husband's life. We saw the wounds in the hand shortly afterwards, and there was still one of the creature's teeth broken and imbedded in the ball of the thumb.

The whole of the illustrations are well drawn and lithographed by two ladies, Mrs. Forde and her sister, Miss Scott. They give the characters of the species with great clearness and accuracy. We trust that the author will be encouraged to fulfil his "hope to continue publications of a similar character."

SCIENCE AND THE WAR.

MARSHAL VAILLANT has drawn the attention of the Paris Academy of Sciences to a proposal of Prof. Burggraave for the adoption of lead foil in place of lint. The lead is made to adhere to the flesh by some glutinous substance, and it is said that it has been found highly effective in many cases of workmen injured in factories. Lead is both cool and soft to the skin, and the sulphite of lead which is formed prevents putrefaction. Another great recommendation is, that the wound may be cooled, without removing the lead, by merely wetting the bandage with water; and thus the entrance of infected air, and consequently of morbid germs, is entirely prevented. In connexion with this subject, it may be mentioned that the war has brought into use a new kind of bandage or compress, combined with lint. French lint is not scraped, like ours, but merely old linen unravelled; that is to say, it consists of masses of thread, and is certainly not very soft; the new bandages are woven with a mass of long threads, like long-piled plush, on a portion of their surface; so that the bandage and lint are combined, and ready for instant application. It is proposed to give every soldier in the French army one of these bands, with the ends dipped in a solution of perchloride of iron, thus forming a compress against hemorrhage as well as a lint bandage.

Science Gossip.

WE learn with regret the death of Mr. A. H. Haliday. Mr. Haliday was an ardent entomologist; and during a residence in Italy of several years' duration he gave particular attention to the entomology of that country.

A NEW volume of the 'Ootheca Woolleyana,' edited by Prof. Newton, of Cambridge, will probably appear this year.

A PORTION of a curious solar dial, found by M. Renan in Phœnicia, has been exhibited before the Académie des Sciences. The dial is in stone, and the divisions are nearly obliterated; but M. Laussedat, professor at the École Polytechnique, has been enabled to re-construct it in wood. The face of the dial is conical, and the hour-lines are curved; the day is not divided into twenty-four hours, the dial only showing the time comprised between the rising and setting of the sun; the curvature of the lines was therefore necessary to indicate the variations.

UNDER the title of 'Introduction to the Meteorology of Alsace,' M. Hein has published not merely a special, but a general treatise on Mineralogy. In his opinion the mechanical theory of heat is one of the main helps to the elucidation of meteorological facts.

A UNIVERSAL agricultural exhibition is to be held at Paris in 1871. A guarantee fund of 302,000 francs has been raised.

THE will of the late Dr. Auzias Turenne desires that his body may be dissected and his skeleton cleaned, articulated and hung up in the museum of the medical school at Christiania.

M. SANSON is engaged in studying the development of bone, with a view to ascertaining what relation subsists between the mode of development and ultimate density of a bone.

SOME petroleum springs are said to have been discovered in France, near the Forest of Haguenau.

M. DOLLFUS-AUSSET, known for his researches on glaciers, has died at Mulhouse.

AN account of the geology of the desert of Atacama, in Chili, has been written by M. Pissiz.

THE *Proceedings* of the Munich Academy contain a valuable paper on the short muscles of the thumb and great toe, by Dr. Bischoff. He has entirely re-investigated the subject.

M. HOUËL has written a *Life of the Russian mathematician, Lobatchefski.*

FINE ARTS

GUSTAVE DORÉ.—DORÉ GALLERY, 35, New Bond Street.—EXHIBITION OF PICTURES, including 'Christian Martyrs,' 'Monastery,' 'Triumph of Christianity,' 'Francesca de Rimini,' at the New Gallery.—OPEN from Ten till Six.—Admission, 1s.

A Critical and Commercial Dictionary of the Works of Painters. By F. P. Segurier. (Longmans & Co.)

THIS extensive compilation contains, as Mr. Segurier avers, nearly 9,000 "sale notes," i. e. memoranda of prices obtained for pictures at sales, and nearly one thousand original notes on the subjects and styles of various artists "who have painted in the schools of Europe between the years 1250 and 1850." As there has been no pictorial art of importance elsewhere than in Europe during this period, the author thus professes to deal with all modern design of the kind in question.

Mr. Segurier states that he divides his subject into two parts,—1, that which treats of known or popular painters,—and, 2, that which refers to what he oddly styles "Scarce Painters." By this epithet he, doubtless, means those whose works are scarce, or who, from any other cause, are scarcely known. We welcomed a book which might save the time and trouble of inquirers about the lives and works of "scarce" painters, but received a shock when, taking Savoldo to be in this country "scarce" enough to satisfy the compiler, we found that neither of his designations, "Bresciano" or "Savoldo," were included by Mr. Segurier, who, probably, considered him too "scarce." This was unfortunate, but not necessarily a characteristic shortcoming of the book, and it was excusable if no pictures by the vigorous Venetian artist had been sold by auction within Mr. Segurier's recollection. The omission of this interesting name led us to endeavour to find out how the book had been compiled: for some time we failed to account for the number of omissions of matters and facts that are essential to "A Dictionary of the Works of Painters." At last, it being impossible completely to hide merit, we found, in very small type, what may be called a shy note to "Abbott, Lemuel" thus: "Most of the collections referred to in this work were sold by Messrs. Christie & Co." Now, the compiler of a catalogue of pictures could have no alternative, and must find his text on catalogues of sales at "Christie's"; at least half the pictures in England, and by old masters, to which Mr. Segurier principally refers, have tempted Fortune before the rostrum—a beautifully designed rostrum it is—of the well-known auctioneers; but if a compiler added no more to the materials which are thus available than Mr. Segurier seems to have done, it would have been well to give to the result of his labours a less pretending title. We are bound to say, that the book contains a vast number of notes of prices obtained at "Christie's" sales of pictures, which are serviceable so far as they go; but here we are again at a loss, because it is easy to see that no systematic mode of selection has been employed for these records. Water-colour artists appear to be excluded, at least, William Hunt, C. Fielding, and De Wint, are conspicuously absent, although portrait-painters, such as Dahl, are freely given. This work seems to be, for the greater part, a classed cata-

logue of oil pictures, with the prices obtained for them in Messrs. Christie & Manson's rooms; indeed, we find hardly any exceptions, and certainly not a single record of pictures sold abroad. The Hôtel Drouot is not recognized by Mr. Segurier, yet how can one learn the commercial value of paintings without some knowledge of its records? How much more serviceable than notes of insignificant prices obtained, for example, in 1790, would be memoranda of sales and prices that have taken place within the current decade! Of these we find singularly few notices, notwithstanding that such recent prices must rule the market, and are among the ordinary elements of our compiler's subject.

Another defect which may be due to the "Englishness" of Mr. Segurier's experience, is that, instead of treating important artists under their own names they are lumped with others, who are occasionally the inferior; e.g., here is the whole of the heading on one of the most admirable of portrait painters, "Somer, Paul Van. See Cornelius Janssen." Turning to "Janssen, Cornelius," we get small comfort in a critical notice which described Van Somer's works as reminding one of Janssen, which is hardly fair, and barely correct. There is no account of prices obtained for Van Somer's portraits, but an absurd statement that his sitters "usually" appear in "fancy black dresses." We turned to "Vincent, George," and found his career described in the briefest manner in the same paragraph with that of other Vincents, and under the head of "Vincent, Joannes." Orcagna is put with Cimabue. A crowning fault in this as a commercial catalogue, is the small number of recent sales it records; the last sale of a Terburg is dated 1848; that of a Teniers the Younger, 1865; of a Jan Steen, 1864; of a Rubens, 1862; of a Guido, 1861; of a Rembrandt, 1863; of a Vandyck, 1864; of a Del Sarto, 1840; of a Perugino, 1838; of a Titian, 1862; of a Velasquez, 1865; of a Vander Velde, 1861; of a Paul Potter, 1848; of an A. Cuyp, 1864. By far the greatest number of sales recorded took place before 1850; and these notes are therefore very much out of date for commercial purposes, while the critical and biographical paragraphs which accompany the price-lists are not worth much. The critical notes are of very unequal value, some criticisms being intelligent, others inconceivably foolish; the biographical part of this work is, oddly enough, nothing but a compilation, and with one exception from the worst sources of information. With all these shortcomings and defects, collectors and dealers cannot but find much curious information in this book; we regret that it is not more complete.

THE ROYAL ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE AT
LEICESTER.

Leicester, August 3, 1870.

THE work of the afternoon of Wednesday (July 27) was begun by a visit to the Castle, where Mr. W. Napier Reeve, deputy of Lord Berners, the Constable of the Castle, received the large party which followed in the wake of Lord Talbot with formal ceremony. The Duchy of Lancaster's Court was opened by proclamation in due form, but the only business done was the delivery of an address by the President for the time being, upon the history of the Castle and the Constables thereof. The alleged foundation of the Castle by Elthelfreda, the

daughter of Aelfred, was lightly touched upon; and then, after the succession of the Norman Earls had been duly spoken of, the great point of the address was made in a laudation of Simon de Montfort, whose home was the Castle of Leicester, and whose great work was that convention with the municipalities of the country, which resulted in the House of Commons of this country. "*Le malheur est quelquefois bon*," say our lively and valorous neighbours; and the hard-pressed Baron of the thirteenth century who hit upon the happy device of summoning the *bourgeois* to his aid by appealing practically to the principle of "no taxation without representation," would be more astonished than any one else if he could revisit the scene of his labours, and contrast our present Parliament with that first brought together under his auspices. But the greatest point of Mr. Reeve's address was where he told his audience how he, representing the Constable, was the greatest man of Leicester for five minutes in a year. But this temporary possession of Aladdin's lamp was very restricted in its use; he could not possess himself of untold wealth, or do deeds of wondrous good or ill: he could only compel the Mayor of Leicester to sue in humble guise and with lowered mace for admission to the Royal Castle, and swear that he would in no way infringe its liberties and privileges. With a sonorous thump of the *bâton* of the Constable—made from one of the oaken pillars which once supported the roof of the Norman Castle—the Deputy adjourned the Duchy Court and vacated his seat.

Mr. Clark, taking up the thread of Mr. Reeve's address, said that Leicester Castle had been one of the finest and strongest of the kind in the kingdom. Unfortunately, its being the seat of the modern administration of justice, differing so much in its form from that somewhat rough-and-ready justice administered by the Norman baron in his hall, had caused it to be strangely transformed, and to lose all its distinctive features. The core of the walls, of course, still remained; the outline of the hall was intact, and several of the Norman windows were almost perfect. Passing on to the Mound, Mr. Clark thought the situation one which displayed considerable military skill, as it presented an entire command of Leicester. It was quite a citadel, overlooking the valley of the river Soar, which formed an enormous wet ditch on one of its sides, and a bend of it protected the other; on the other two it was carefully strengthened by military works. By its command of the river, a mill was constructed within easy reach, for the use of the Lord, at which all within the precincts of the Castle were bound to grind their corn. The district of those precincts was known as the Castle View. St. Mary's Church was formerly the chapel of the Castle, far beyond which was the abutment of the original wall, and beyond which was the ditch. The gateway they had passed under was a good specimen of perpendicular work, and was very probably the work of John of Gaunt. Passing from the Mound, the large party went round its base to the great cellar known as the "dungeon" of the Castle, and which was found to be as well stored with barrels of beer as if some great feast-day of mediæval times was approaching. Returning to the Castle yard, and passing over the elevation on which the sentence of death was formerly carried out, St. Mary's Church was entered. Here Mr. Parker resumed his place as spokesman, and told the story of the building. At one time it had been a much smaller church, and had eventually become parochial. The earliest portion of the church was the west end, which was a rich example of Norman work. There had been some rich arcade work in the walls, and also a clerestory; much of these had been destroyed by work of a later period, of a transition character. The church had been divided, so as to meet the wants both of the garrison of the Castle and of the parish, and this would account for the great length of the building; the additions to which could be easily seen. Within the Castle precinct is situated Trinity Hospital, founded by Henry, Earl of Lancaster, in 1330, and though much altered and "improved" at subsequent

dates, still retaining some of the internal fittings, and all its old rights and customs. Nothing can be uglier than the frontage erected about a century ago in the place of the "range of fine arched pillars on the side of a spacious aisle," which previously occupied its place. Here terminated the proposed perambulation of the town, and a long train of vehicles then conducted the large party to the site of the ancient abbey of St. Mary "de Pratis."

Nothing can be more disappointing to the archæologist than the first look of the site of Leicester Abbey. A high, strong, and carefully-kept wall surrounds its ancient enclosure; in the centre are some high and massive ruins of an Elizabethan mansion, at the side of which is the residence of the gardener, who now rents the land, and turns it to excellent account. Trimly-kept walks, trees bowing down with their load of fruit, and beds of bright flowers of every hue, now occupy the space assigned by Robert le Bossu to the Augustinian Canons, whose praises he continued to sing among them to the end of his days, and the spot where the great statesman of Henry the Eighth's reign breathed his last. Of course ruins are found wherever the earth is displaced to any depth, but three feet or more of good soil cover many portions of the area, and the conditions of proper cultivation will not permit any excavations on a large scale without heavy expenses. Had the establishment belonged to almost any other order than the Austin Canons, the probable site of both the religious and domestic buildings could be easily suggested by analogy, but the Austin Canons were very independent in their ideas as to building, and did as they pleased. Mr. Nevinson showed long troughs in the ground where foundations of all kinds were laid open, but the good folk of Leicester had been working almost in the dark. Unquestionably it is of importance to all who would read archæology aright that the "long-drawn aisle" should not be confounded with the remains of buildings devoted to baser purposes. Hence the great value of the document first brought to the notice of the folk of Leicester by Mr. Burt, and which we here give.

"The scyet conteynyth xv akers and inclosyd all about with a wall of stone parte bryke standing half a myell from Leycester towards the Northe, all inviermed on the South parte with a freshe water ryver currant by the same wherein ys ffysche of all kyndes, with medows and large opyn comen felde of arrable land yerly sawen with corne, and of the Northe with good battyll and fruytfull pastures and wodes there, with the parke wherein ys deer parcell of the demeanes within xl perches of the scyet, parte hygh and champon ground vere comodyouse and parkely, nygh adjoyning to the grett woodes and pastures called the Fryth and Beomond Leys the new parke the forrest of Leycester and two othyr parkys pertyning to the Duche. The Churche the mansyon houses and othyr buyldynges standyth in the myddyst of the scyet. And a halt way cast out of the North parte thereof inclosyd with hyghe walles of stone and inbattelyd leydyng into the seyd scyet, and to a basse court of barnys, stables and othyr houses of husbandrye and to a small gate-house withe one turret opeynyng into an othyr bascourt, and with a square lodgyng of ayther syed the gate house wherein be v chambers with chymneys and large wyndowes glasyd, the walles of stone and coveryd with leyd, and foure turrets of stone at the foure corneres of the same. In the South Est parte of the seyd court standyth the backhouse, brewhouse and ij stables all of stone and coveryd with tyell. On the West parte standyth the Churche conteynyng in leynght cxi fote and in bredyth xxx fote, with a large crose yell in the myddyst of the same conteynyng in leynght c fote and xxx fote in bredyth and nygh to the hyght of Westminster Churche with a hyghe squayr Tower stepyll standing at the West end of the same wherein ys a grett doore and a large wyndowe glasyd openyng at the entre in to the said scyet. And a grett square house leydyng from the West end of the seyd churche to the West end of the Frater wherein be iij grett chambers with chymneys and

large wyndowes parte glasyd, with stayres of tymber leydyng uppe to the same, the walles parte stone and coveryd with leyde which wolde be muche more comodyouse yf yt were performed after an uniforme, all with stone to the prospect and view of the same. The Frater is a great large house and well proporcyoned with a large wyndowe glasyd openyng into the Courte, the dorter standing at the Est end thereof of lyke proporecyon, with stayres leydyng on hygh to the same and valtyd under and belowe wherin be great large sellers. The churche with the foresayd housses chapter house and librarie be all of stone and coveryd with leyde, and buyldyd squayr about the Cloyester yerde and a entre leydyng furth of the Cloyester in to the hall and chaumbers, and other houses of offyce buylded square about a yarde adjoyning to the seyde cloyester, parte stone and parte tymber, parte coveryd with leyde and parte with tyell, with gallerees leydyng above and belowe to the same hall and chaumbers kechyn and other houses of offyce. And at the entree owt of the bascourt to the same standyth a tower the forefrunte all bryke, with a turret well proporcyoned called the Kynges lodgyng, wherein ys two fayr chaumbers with wyndowes glasyd, with chymneys and two inner chaumbers with chymneys, and belowe a parler with two inner chaumbers of lyke proporecyon, and a gallere leydyng from the seyde tower belowe to iii chaumbers with chymneys and to the hall all of stone and coveryd with tyell, and to serten camberes above and belowe for officers, and a hyghe galere above leyding from the foresayd tower at the gate to iii chaumbers above with chymneys. And to the gret dynyng chaumber standyth on hyghe at the upper end of the hall well sealed above, with the out caste of large bey wyndowes and within the same one fayre lodgyng chaumber with an inner chaumber with chymneys and wyndowes glasyd, the walls stone and coveryd with leyde, and an lave galere leydyng frome the hall to the keychyn and housses of offyce and to vi chaumbers for officers. And an entree leydyng owt of the same to the fermore housses wherof parte is newly and lately buylded wherein be vi chaumbers with chymneys. And there be in the utter court dyvers chaumbers for servautes in several playcs, and all the foresayd houses with the churche be in good repayr. There ys within the scyet a podyerd wherin is x pondys parte large and gret with a fayr orchard."

In the evening a meeting of the Historical Section was held in the Masonic Hall, at which Archdeacon Stanton presided, in the absence of Lord Neaves, who had been prevented coming by the war. Mr. J. T. Burgess, of Leamington, read a memoir 'On the Last Battle of the Roses' at Redmore, near Market Bosworth, better known as the Battle of Bosworth. Much pains had evidently been taken in preparing this memoir, which was illustrated by a carefully-executed map and plan of the battle; but the story was not improved by an attempt to connect the Flora of the district with the struggle.

Thursday was appointed for an excursion to Ashby, Tutbury and Tamworth. The two latter places are outside the county of Leicester, but were visited on this occasion as being easily accessible and interesting objects. The route lay through some of the richest agricultural and pasture lands of the district, and many a visitor testified to the truth of the rich and varied scenes we endeavoured to sketch in our preliminary reference to the meeting. Arrived at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, a good ramble was made round about the ruins: the remains of the grand gate-house, the chapel, the hall, and the kitchen, with its many and handy contrivances still apparent, attracting much attention. Here Mr. Clark, Mr. Parker and Mr. Bloxam discoursed upon the history of the Hastings family, and the probabilities of some of the ruins belonging to a structure of the fourteenth century, antecedent to the general bulk of the remains. Passing somewhat hurriedly through the adjoining church to see the effigy of the pilgrim enshrined in the collar of SS., the party resumed their route to Tutbury. Here the magnificent western doorway attracted

universal admiration, and that, and other portions of the very interesting church, were duly descanted upon by Mr. Parker. Proceeding to the castle ruins, Mr. Clark assumed the lead, and led the way round the external wall to the great gate of entrance, pointing out special portions of any interest *en route*. The great natural strength of the position had been increased by the skill of the builder of the castle, who led the approach through a gorge between hills in front of a strong tower and before a considerable space of curtain wall to the gate-house. Leading on to the mound where once stood the Keep, Mr. Clark gave a vivid and eloquent description of the locality at the period of the erection of the fortress and of its chief occupiers and defenders. Progress being again the order, the Institute proceeded to Tamworth. The original intention was also to pay a visit to the very interesting church of Polesworth; but to do this required negotiation with the triple railroad authorities, and the officials of the Institute had been in treaty with them a month previously for this express purpose. At the last moment, when the Rector of Polesworth had made preparations to receive the Institute, in happy ignorance of the contentions which can disturb such breasts, Cerberus refused to be pacified, and that part of the Excursion was struck out. We should, however, do justice to these officials by saying that on the day after this excursion, the secretary received a courteous letter from a railway manager very like that which he had received a month ago, asking particulars of the excursion, and professing every wish to arrange terms for it! On arriving at Tamworth some refreshment was necessary, and a substantial lunch was provided at the Castle Hotel. Thence the party proceeded to the Castle itself. The remains of this renowned Norman stronghold had been greatly altered to suit the exigencies of modern residence, and beyond its grand position and general *contour* little of the early structure could be traced. There were, however, some interesting portions of the Castle with the arrangements of the Jacobean period. The church was the next point. This was found to be in the hands of the restorers, and several of the original and most interesting features of the fabric were laid bare, and could be carefully examined. Mr. Parker and Mr. Bloxam here discoursed upon the building and the monuments. The party then returned to Leicester. In the evening a *conversazione* was given by the Mayor of Leicester in the Town Museum. The attendance was very numerous. A temporary buffet was erected, which was furnished with a handsome display of refreshments, which seemed to be greatly enjoyed, and a most agreeable evening was passed.

Friday (the 29th ult.) was to be a day of close work. The members of the Institute were assembled at 9 a.m. to hear the Annual Report read and transact other regular business of the Society. The Report gave a very satisfactory account of the condition of the Institute; but no decision was arrived at as to the place of meeting for next year, which was referred to the decision of the Council in London. At 10 o'clock the Historical Section met in the Lecture-room of the Town Museum, Lord Talbot de Malahide in the chair. Prof. Lewis read an account of the discovery of Roman coins at Sutton, near Woodbridge, in Suffolk, many of which he exhibited. Lord Talbot pointed out the importance of depositing such objects in local museums.

The Rev. Dr. Margoliouth read a memoir, entitled 'Gleanings of Historic Anglo-Hebrews from the Annals of Ancient Mercia.' Last year he had given a paper on the subject of the East Anglian Hebrews, at the Bury St. Edmunds meeting, and since then he had seen what had been brought from Palestine by the agency of the Exploration Fund. In the Midland counties of England the Jews settled during the earliest historic period, and were numerous and prosperous, and the writer gave several instances of their condition. He then traced their sufferings under the later Norman sovereigns, and thought their expulsion from Leicester was rather later than the year

assigned by Mr. Thompson on Tuesday evening to that event.

Mr. H. F. Holt read an Essay on the Parliament of Henry the Fifth at Leicester in 1414. In reference to the reasons which induced the king to hold that Parliament at Leicester, instead of at Westminster, the writer spoke of some incidents in the domestic life of the king; and showed that the Countess of Derby was not buried in Trinity Hospital, but in the church of the "King's College," at Leicester, which is destroyed. Mr. Holt then noticed the proceedings of the Parliament.

The Rev. J. Lee Warner followed with a Memoir on John Wycliffe, of which this extract will give some idea: "We cannot avoid glancing at the times on which he fell as a key to the religious tenor of Wycliffe's inner life. Events were passing around him which could not fail to impress deeply and abidingly his future character. The middle of the fourteenth century was notorious for licentiousness. The corrupt atmosphere of the Court had contaminated the air of England, and required a more potent counterpoise than Gower's 'Confessio Amantis,' or 'Piers Ploughman's Vision.' Some prophet was needed, who should cry aloud like a trumpet, and show his people their transgression and the nation its sin. Friars there were doubtless; but the example of many of these preachers neutralized the warnings of them all. Indulgences were ill adapted to check the growing evil. A Reformer was called for who should prove himself a Reformer indeed; who should set himself in opposition, not only to the popular malady, but to the nostrums of those empirics by whom the popular malady was aggravated, rather than healed. Such a Reformer was John Wycliffe."

Mr. Bloxam remarked that there were three portraits of Wycliffe in the temporary museum, for which he never sat. He had been spoken of by Mr. Lee Warner as having a beard, whereas he was clean shaven; neither did the remains of the embroidered gown ever belong to him, for they were certainly of the fifteenth century.

Thanks having been voted to the writers of the memoirs, the meeting was adjourned to Monday. At half-past two, an excursion was made by carriage to Kirby Muxloe Castle. Here are the Gate House and remains of a structure begun by Lord Chamberlain Hastings, probably on the site of an earlier mansion. It may have been occupied, but never with any large retinue. It was deserted for the far grander chateau of Ashby-de-la-Zouch. It is of brick, with a very small admixture of stone, and the singular arrangements of openings close to the floor of the towers, made at a later date for small cannon, attracted much notice. Mr. Bennett very handsomely entertained the party with refreshments in his garden, close to the Castle. In the evening a *conversazione* was held in the temporary museum.

The excursion to Bradgate, Ulverscroft, and Beaumanor was fixed for Saturday. It was evidently an attractive day, for the numbers were much larger than on any other occasion. Taking Groby Castle first *en route*, where only the mound is visible, the favourite resort of Leicester people, Bradgate Park, was soon reached. It contains a noble-looking ruin of a handsome Tudor mansion, situated among the most lovely scenery; but its great charm is its association with the gifted but luckless Queen Jane, who was born in the house, and passed all her happy days in its precincts. Here Mr. Bloxam discoursed learnedly upon the family, and the monument in the ruined chapel. Ulverscroft Priory was then reached. The ruins consist of a great portion of the west end and south side of the church, part of the refectory, and other buildings. Some of the architectural details are in very good condition. Avoiding the duller line of the road, the cavalcade took its way across the fields, a route which afforded many fine points of view over the varied aspect of the country, enriched with cornfields, which promised an abundant harvest. Crossing over the high land, Beacon Hill was passed on the left, and the little village of Woodhouse was reached. Here is a chapel, in the windows of which are some excellent specimens of

painted glass, of which Mr. Nicholls gave a short account. The chapel had been carefully restored by Mr. Herrick. The party then proceeded to Beaumanor Park. It is a very handsome modern residence, but having many historical associations on account of the high position of the family of the owner. Here the party were received by Mr. and Mrs. Herrick, and most hospitably entertained, in a large marquee tastefully laid out in the grounds. Due justice having been done to the excellent repast, Mr. Herrick rose, and, after giving his guests a most hearty welcome to Beaumanor, spoke of the value that resulted from such rambles of archaeologists, in saving relics from mutilation, and in preserving materials for future historians. There was always a sufficient number of destructive agencies at work that it was impossible to check. Beaumanor was not without its historic associations. The Duchess of Suffolk came to live at that place, and there married Adrian Stokes. There was a chamber in the old house called "The Duchess's Chamber," which had been pulled down. A notion had got abroad that there was in the house a large chest of papers and documents that had never been examined. This was not the case. Mr. Nicholls, the historian, had had access to everything, and nothing of importance was likely to escape his vigilance. He concluded by proposing, as a toast, "The President of the Royal Archaeological Institute, and success to the Society."

Lord Talbot de Malahide acknowledged the toast. The Institute was deeply grateful to those gentlemen who received them in different parts of the country, for the sympathy they evinced towards them. To feel that their efforts were appreciated was very gratifying. They could not have had a more agreeable place of meeting than Leicester. The objects of interest were many and varied, and it was a part of the country to which they had not done justice before. He concluded by proposing as a toast, "The health of their worthy host, and prosperity to him and his." Mr. Herrick responded by again expressing his gratification at welcoming the Institute to Beaumanor. The Mayor of Leicester, on behalf of his fellow townsmen, tendered his thanks to Mr. Herrick for his many acts of kindness and attention, and for his present hospitality.

Archdeacon Fearon added, that Mr. Herrick had provided food for future as well as for present archaeologists. He had built more than one church, and with his strong arm he had helped others. He begged leave to propose "The Health of Mrs. Herrick." Mr. Herrick having replied, Mr. J. G. Nicholls offered some remarks on Beaumanor and its history. The ground on which they stood was originally part of Charnwood Forest, and was disafforested in the eighteenth year of Henry the Third. Almost the entire forest had been by successive Acts of Inclosure brought into cultivation, though part of it was still in its wild state, of which a sample had been seen near Beacon Hill. He then traced the manor from the De Spensers in the time of Edward the First, through successive centuries. It came to the Beaumonts by marriage, and remained in the family down to 1596, when Sir William Herrick purchased the manor. Leland, writing in the reign of Henry the Eighth, said "Then I came to Beaumanor, where there is a pretty lodge, belonging of late to the Beaumonts." The house was represented as standing in a square enclosure, with water all round the four sides. Mr. Nicholls then continued the modern history of the house. The Rev. E. Hill moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Nicholls for his observations; and Mr. Herrick, in seconding it, said there was no family that, in an archaeological sense, the county was so much indebted to as the Nicholls family. Mr. Nicholls briefly replied.

The Hall was then carefully perambulated. In one of the bed-chambers is the bed in which Richard the Third was said to have slept in the White Boar Hotel in Leicester on the night before the battle of Bosworth. Mr. Herrick thought the "well" of the bedstead was original; nearly all else had been altered. In the hall are several portraits of the Herrick family, two by Vandyck, and

a remarkable piece of furniture in the shape of a large chair, with slanting posts round the seat. It was made out of a solid oak tree cut down in the park in 1690. In the Court-yard is preserved the carriage built for the wedding of the grandfather of the present owner of Beaumanor in 1740—a quaint, cumbrous vehicle, with appliances suited to the hardness of the roads.

Leaving the hospitable shades of Beaumanor the party passed through Loughborough, to the site of the Nunnery of Grace Dieu. The ruins were some distance from the road, and necessitated a walk over some rough ground, but among very pleasant scenery. The route was then continued to Coalville, where a special train was in waiting, to convey the party to Leicester.

Monday morning was occupied by the reading of an account, by the Rev. Assheton Pownall, of a discovery of Roman coins in Leicestershire. In the absence of the writer, the Rev. J. Spittal read the memoir. The other papers down in the Programme were not forthcoming.

Shortly before one o'clock a party of excursionists, much reduced in number from that of Saturday, visited Melton Mowbray and Oakham. Mr. Wing, of Melton, accompanied the party over the large and handsome church, and pointed out its principal features. Thence to Oakham in carriages: the church and hall were visited and carefully examined. Mr. Barber drew attention to the very remarkable sculptures of the capitals and other fine features in the church and in the hall. Mr. Burt read some notes upon the history of the structure and its remarkable architecture. The curious array of horse-shoes of course provoked comment, and that of the President of the Institute affixed on the occasion of his visit a few years ago did not escape notice. The excursionists returned to Leicester by the ordinary train, and so terminated the business of a very pleasant and satisfactory meeting.

On Tuesday the usual votes of thanks were passed with the greatest unanimity, amid expressions of perfect concord and goodwill, which were very warmly responded to.

The Museum.

The Temporary Museum of the Institute was formed in a large room at the corner of Wellington Street, in the centre of the town. The room had been lately acquired by the Corporation for a Free Library, and was kept unoccupied till the meeting of the Institute. It is of noble proportions, and one of the best the Institute has had in its many gatherings. Round the walls were hung pictures, drawings, and other suitable objects. Among these must be specified the cartoons of the far-famed glass of Fairford. These have been executed by the Rev. Mr. Joyce, from the originals, with the most painstaking care and artistic skill, coloured exactly from the originals, and are eventually to be deposited in the South Kensington Museum for the use of students. One side of the room was taken up by a long case covered with glass, in which were ranged the smaller objects, and large and small stands and tables were placed in various parts of the room and covered with armour, rare books and MSS., embroidery, specimens of iron and other metal work, wood carvings, &c.

The attempt to form a collection of portraits of worthies of the district had only partly succeeded. The owners of such local pictures contributed to the great National Exhibitions of Portraits in 1866 and 1867 could not be persuaded to send their treasures to an Exhibition opened for so short a time, and when all the troubles and dangers of packing and transit were to be twice incurred within a very short space of time. Still a very respectable show was made. Lord Berners sent a noble portrait of an ancestor, by Holbein; Lord Denbigh sent a portrait of Wycliffe. Of this distinguished man, of whom the county is so justly proud, three portraits were shown. The best in every way is certainly Mr. Hippisley's. It is evidently the work of a real artist, full of expression and character and well painted, but it cannot be contemporaneous. It may have been executed in the reign of

Henry the Eighth, and Wycliffe died in 1384. As Mr. Bloxam pointed out after the reading of Mr. Lee Warner's memoir of the great reformer, the appearance of a beard on the face of a priest of the fourteenth century was at once fatal to its pretensions to originality. Mr. Hippisley's portrait had doubtless been copied both for that belonging to Lord Denbigh, and that of the Churchwardens of Lutterworth; but the latter in no way redeemed the generally-received characteristics of churchwarden taste. Another so-called memorial of the great Lutterworth divine was shown in the relics of a gown of embroidered work, probably of the fifteenth century. A pair of candlesticks of the ugliest style, even of the eighteenth century, to which they belonged, were also shown by the Lutterworth authorities as Wycliffe's.—To resume our string of worthies, The Corporation of Leicester furnished a good contribution to the list. The first in rank was an excellent portrait of Henry Earl of Huntingdon, Lord Hastings, &c., President of Council in the north of England, dated 1623. Several remarkable portraits of members of the Herrick family must next be noticed. Not ennobled by rank, but by every excellent quality which makes a man noble, the present possessor of the magnificent manor of Beaumanor, is endeared to Leicestershire by his generous charity and kindly sympathy with every good and noble work. From the sixteenth century the family has held a high position in the county. The Corporation exhibit a fine picture representing Robert Heyrick, Mayor of Leicester in 1584, 1593 and 1605. In the corner is the little verse—

His picture whom you see
When he is dead and rotten
By this shall remembered be
When he shall be forgotten.

He represented the town in the Parliament of 1588.

Mr. Herrick sent a Portrait of Sir William Herrick, Knight, born 1557, died 1652, and who represented Leicester in Parliament in 1601, 1605, and 1629; Portrait of Mrs. Mary Eyricke, wife of John Eyricke, twice Mayor of Leicester, who died in 1611, aged 97: she was the mother of Sir William: she is said to render good testimony to the healthiness of Leicester by having lived with her husband in one house fifty-two years, and in that time "buried neither man, woman nor child, though sometimes twenty in household"; Portrait of William Herrick, three times Lord Mayor of London.

The Corporation also exhibited a Portrait of the Rev. Thomas Hayne, founder of the Town Library, who died in 1645; of Sir Thomas White, the munificent founder of the great loan charity to Leicester and sixty-three other corporate bodies, presented to the town by William Herrick in 1616.—The Rev. W. Sawyer, of Old Dalby Hall, sent a picture of great interest and value. It is a portrait of Admiral Sawyer, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, who was an old friend of the family. It is said to be the first portrait painted by him. Also, a portrait of Sir Herbert Sawyer when in command of the West India station, painted by a black seaman, and, of course, quaint and harsh in painting.—Mrs. Farmer Cooke sent a portrait of Henry, ninth Earl of Westmoreland; of Dr. Farmer, Master of Emanuel College, who twice replied "Nolo episcopari" to offers of bishoprics; of Prince Rupert, with some evidences of being genuine.—Mrs. Egan sent fine portraits of Margaret Beaufort and Prince Arthur, and a very indifferent one of Prince Rupert.

A good testimony of the value of such temporary collections of curious and remarkable objects under such auspices as that of the visit of the Institute to Leicester, was afforded by the Dominican Fathers of the convent in the town in exhibiting their embroideries. One of these is an interesting example of the "Opus Anglicanum" of about A.D. 1300. It is an embroidered vestment, representing Our Lord seated on a throne, surmounted by a canopy, with orb and cross in the left hand, and giving benediction with the right. In the spandrels of the canopy are the sun and moon, and the Annunciation above and the inscription "Johannis de Thaneto"; the field covered with lions. Several chasubles and other

vestments of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries were also shown by them. One of these has the rebus "Eagleton"; and another has a rich floriated pattern in white silk and cloth of gold.

A brief survey of the contents of the long glass case may now be made. Of late years the Museums of the Institute have exhibited ample evidence of the great interest excited by the study of prehistoric remains. The interesting relics of that period exhibited at Bury St. Edmunds last year, and the large series of such objects shown at Hull in 1867, will be long remembered by those who saw them. The present Museum presents no such feature of interest. Two very fine stone hammer-heads are shown at the beginning of the glass case, and here and there a celt or two may be seen in a miscellaneous collection; but the early history of the town begins with the Roman period; and Leicester is rich beyond description in the evidences of its occupation by the Romans. Outside the Town Museum may be seen several of the columns of the ancient Forum, touched upon by Mr. Joyce and Mr. Thompson in their lectures; and inside the Museum are numerous pavements, and stone ornaments of various kinds and of various sizes. To the Temporary Museum of the Institute had been transferred for the time very many of the smaller and more interesting objects useful to show the sequence of the collection. These included vases of almost endless variety and shape, fragments of "Samian" ware, of amphore, and mortaria with potters' marks and hard grit lining. One of the fragments of "Samian" is carefully described (as it deserves to be) in Mr. Roach Smith's 'Collectanea Antiqua.' It is a thick piece of pottery, about six inches by two, probably the rim of a bowl, inscribed "Verecunda Lydia Lucius gladiator." In this Leicester possesses the only known example of a Roman love-letter. Mr. Goddard's collection of Roman pottery contains many interesting and rare examples. A few pieces of Roman pavement are shown in the Museum, among them is a specimen of one formed of natural "tesserae," if they may be so called—simply the smooth gravel-stones selected of equal size, and of white, yellow, and brown colours, imbedded in the usual firm cement. Till the use of granite pavement became general, these "kidney" pavements were in ordinary use, and are painfully odious to the pedestrian, as some of the visitors to the Institute meeting experienced. Two fine horse-shoes of the Roman period were lately found on the Watling Street. They are curious as showing that the concave side was fastened to the foot, the outer being convex.

Of the Saxon period, numerous examples of arms, personal ornaments and other objects were shown. Major Knight, of Glen Parva, showed the gleanings from an interesting burial on his estate. A few years ago a stone coffin was found. It was covered by an arch of stone, and in it was a perfect female skeleton, and several fibulae, pendants, bone pins, beads, and other personal ornaments. From Melton Mowbray were sent several fibulae, swords, bosses of shields, &c. Advancing in the course of time, the period near the Norman Conquest has nothing to illustrate it. All the more solid objects have disappeared, and the earliest illustration of the town since the Conquest are specimens of the corporation monuments. Few, if any, towns in England can equal Leicester in this respect. It possesses charters of the Norman Earls of Leicester and of the Earls and Dukes of Lancaster, Rolls of the Merchant Guild, beginning A.D. 1196, and apparently in continuation of earlier rolls, Royal Charters under the Great Seal, beginning with King John, Tallage and Taxation Rolls, Rolls of the Guild of Corpus Christi. The later documents too are full and various; among them must be noted the "Codex Leicesterensis," a fourteenth century MS. of the Gospels in Greek.

From the fourteenth to the sixteenth century, a very miscellaneous collection of articles is shown. Mrs. F. Cooke exhibits a large massive iron key, eleven inches in length, said to be the key of the prison of Newgate, London—that prison destroyed by fire in the Gordon Riots of 1780, and which a

late popular novelist, in his story of those times, makes Gabriel Varden manufacture. This key is obviously of the fourteenth century. In this section of the big glass case is grouped a good collection of English and other pottery, belonging to Mr. Goddard. They comprise a great variety of objects, some of great beauty and rarity, which our space will not allow us to specify. This gentleman's contributions to the museum are of the greatest value, representing, as they do, the collection, made with great care and discrimination, by his father, an antiquary of the last generation. Mrs. Collis exhibits a few sixteenth century pamphlets and MSS., some of which are additions to the numerous polemical productions of the time. There is among them a MS. which seems to deserve careful examination in times when our Liturgy is being revised: it is entitled, "The Order of Comon Praier. The ministracion of Christes holye sacramentes and of Christian discipline usede in the English congregacion at Franckeforde," and ends with "A Praier for Kynge Philippe and Quene Marye," which shows its date to be in their reign. Another is headed "The common crye of Englishemen made to the most noble ladie Quene Elizabeth and the High Courte of Parliament assembled at Westminster in the monthe of Octobre the eight yere of her most happy reigne," and argues strongly in favour of Her Majesty's early marriage. Mr. Holt sends a finely-carved ivory horn, with medallion of Augustus, King of Poland, in 1697. The Rev. Mr. Madan shows some very delicate specimens of Venetian glass, very thin, and of a peculiarly dead tone of colour; a hexagonal bottle with coloured cord-like ornaments at the angles, and another with a remarkable dragon's head mouth. Mr. North contributes three fine early Wedgwood vases; and Mr. Nevinson the lesser silver mace of the Corporation. The great mace, of Charles the Second's time, is again the official symbol, having been repurchased by subscription. All the Corporation plate was sold at the time of the Municipal Corporations Reform Act.

With a glance at some of the varied groups about the room, our account must close.—Mr. O'Callaghan, of Leamington, sent a good collection of fifteenth and sixteenth century autographs of royal and distinguished persons, including Richard Duke of York, King Richard the Third and Henry the Seventh; holograph love-letter of Henry the Eighth to Anne Boleyn; and letter of Mary Queen of Scots to the French Ambassador, Delamothe. These were accompanied by engraved portraits, which represent the received ideas as to the portraiture of the individual, if they do no more. Another member of the Institute, Mr. Holt, of London, sent a small case of precious objects, comprising plaques of ivory, wood-carvings, rings, miniatures in wax of the Marquis du Guasto and wife in 1525, and a reliquary, in the form of an ivory book, presented by the Duchess of Guise to Catherine de Medicis, inlaid with medallions and precious stones. Conspicuous on a large table is a warlike half-length figure, in armour, of a "conventional" type, brought from Alton Towers, and, doubtless, a reliquary. This table is covered with numerous works of all sorts and sizes, illustrating the history and antiquities of the town and county. In a case, on another table, are the "relics" of Queen Elizabeth, contributed by the Earl of Denbigh, and the black silk "continuations" of King Edward the Sixth. It will, doubtless, be noticed that the Museum is not well supplied with enamels, ancient plate or ivories; but it is, on the whole, a very interesting collection, reflecting great credit on the county and on the officers of the Institute, by whose exertions it has been got together and arranged.—Mr. Charles Tucker, and the Rev. Mr. Manning.

THE NAVAL GALLERY, GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

In our notice in No. 2230 of the Naval Gallery, we spoke highly of the manner in which the pictures have been cleaned. Mr. C. Buttery writes to us:—

"I may, perhaps, be allowed to correct a slight

inaccuracy, which from the well-known justice and impartiality of your journal I am sure you will be glad to receive. You speak of these cleanings as having been effected under the superintendence of Mr. Solomon Hart, R.A. This is not exactly correct, as Mr. Hart received his appointment as Curator of the Gallery somewhere I think about January, 1868, whereas I had received the commands of Her Majesty's Government to undertake the work as far back as 1866, at that time there being no curator. Fifty-six pictures in all were treated by me, twenty-five of these are mentioned by name in your article, in none of which I had the benefit of Mr. Hart's advice or co-operation. To treat some of these was a work of no slight responsibility, owing to the deplorable condition into which they had fallen. Notably, the interesting portrait of Kempenfeldt was in a shocking state of decay, being intersected with a wilderness of huge cracks in the paint; this was fast going to decay and absolute ruin. The Peppys' Diary pictures, mentioned by you also, were every one of them in a completely obscured condition, the blues appearing green, the yellows deep brown, &c. But above all, the portrait of Admiral Gell caused the greatest trouble. This was found to be completely painted over, and this coat of re-paint being removed with great nicety the picture underneath was found to be a genuine work by Reynolds, as may now be seen by any one competent to judge, its aspect before being, of course, that of a miserable travesty of this great artist's reputation. However, it is not my intention to trouble you with a detailed description of the state of these pictures, but I am sure from the well-known fairness of Mr. Hart's character, he would not wish to monopolize more than his fair share of whatever credit there may be attached to the restorations of the pictures which you have mentioned."

AN APPEAL.

At the Working Men's Exhibition held at the Agricultural Hall in 1866 I exhibited one painting: that took the silver medal and 10l. prize, upon which work the following extract from an article upon the Exhibition in your paper I enclose:—

"The Postman Artist," Mr. Major, again comes out with a most meritorious fruit piece, 'The Uninvited Visitors to the Dessert,' a work of such excellence as to make it a duty on the part of the critic to encourage him to court a higher rivalry than mere amateurs, and to urge him to try for space among the true artists in the Academy Exhibition next May."

So I did. I worked eight months upon a fruit piece and two painted ladies (butterflies). I showed it to W. R. Beverly, Esq., and he approved of it, &c.,—but no, rejected again. I have tried, but cannot succeed. How can I, after working over eight hours on the stairs of Lincoln's Inn Fields, now twenty-two years? So with a few commissions through Mr. Beverly, who is my constant friend, I have worked on for this last three years. I have been preparing for this International Exhibition of workmen, and I have sent seven pictures in oil: 1, 'The Painted Ladies and Dessert'; 2, 'The Death of Jack (Fish), and the Red Admiral (Butterfly),' by A. Reed Bunting; 3, 'Landscape, May, Postman waiting for the Mail Cart'; 4, 5, 6, 7, Fruit Pieces.

The Galleries being unfinished at the opening, &c., not one of the papers mentioned anything in them, and through that mismanagement I am left in the dark. I have gone to great expense, and a good deal hangs on for the future to my being emancipated from the stairs to the studio, if I can show I have made a mark. I see you have not as yet made any comments on this Exhibition, and thinking you might do so is my excuse for the liberty I have taken in writing. Going in from the Liverpool Road my seven paintings are in the left gallery, corner of the first staircase, six of them together, the Fish Painting farther back. With thanks for past favours, I remain yours, &c.,

H. A. MAJOR, "Postman Artist."

* * * Mr. Major's critic did not intend to suggest

that, without the training which all arts require, he should enter the lists against those who had devoted years to professional studies. Painting butterflies and fish is but a narrow course of practice; and we never dreamt of Mr. Major's merely continuing to practise, not study, in this limited mode. We publish the letter to invite attention to Mr. Major's works, and in order to show the nature of such counsel.

Fine-Art Gossip.

REVISED estimates have been published for the following public services:—Science and Art Department buildings, new buildings at South Kensington, 52,500*l.*, increase, 28,500*l.*; auxiliary museum in the East of London, 5,000*l.*, increase, 2,000*l.*; total increase, 30,500*l.* In aid of the expenditure of certain learned societies in Great Britain, 12,450*l.*, in addition, advances for the new Courts of Justice, buildings, 21,450*l.*, of which 16,000*l.* is intended for the erection of the building. Of course this will be repaid to the Treasury out of the surplus interest on money in the hands of the Court of Chancery. For the National Gallery enlargement, 44,000*l.* is asked, of which 20,000*l.* is for the acquisition of land, and 24,000*l.* for clearing the site acquired, and for new buildings.

At a recent meeting of those who are entrusted with the task of carrying into effect the conditions of the Slade Bequest to the London University, it was determined immediately to begin building the schools which will be required for the purpose. The election of a Slade Professor will not be proceeded with until November next.

The first number of a new Art journal will appear on the 1st of September. It is called *The School of Design*, and among its contributors are numbered Sir Digby Wyatt and Mr. Redgrave.

"A copy of a plan submitted by Mr. Barry, by direction of the First Commissioner of Works, to the Select Committee of the House of Lords in 1869," has been published (351). This is the plan for refreshment-rooms at Westminster referred to by us last week.

As Mr. Parker allows his exhibition of Roman photographs, in Mr. Cundall's Gallery, New Bond Street, to remain open until the 13th inst., we invite the attention of artists and archaeologists to the interesting nature of its contents. It will be remembered that Mr. Parker, judging from the style and other characteristics of the wall-paintings in the Roman Catacombs, avers that the greater number of these pictures were not executed, as commonly asserted and believed, in the second or third Christian century, but in the eighth or ninth century, and for the edification of the pilgrims who resorted to Rome after the invasion of the Lombards, when the Catacombs were restored. Comparison with mosaics in the churches is declared to decide this question.

We regret to have to notice an unprovoked act of Vandalism. The statue to the only son of the Earl of Clare, who heroically lost his life in the Balaklava charge—which statue was the ornament of the Wellesley Bridge, at Limerick—was grossly mutilated on Sunday, in open day time.

By direction of the French Minister of Fine-Arts, the various purchases made by the Government at the Salon of the present year are being exhibited to the public in the Champs Élysées.

MUSIC

DRURY LANE.—SUMMARY OF THE SEASON.

THE import of the Italian Opera season at Drury Lane Theatre will be appreciated by bearing in mind that at the period when the "Fusion" Direction was formed, the report was industriously spread that the two companies of Her Majesty's Theatre and the Royal Italian Opera (Covent Garden), when rolled into a single "troupe," could only supply sufficient ability for one establishment. Now this kind of assertion is just as incorrect as that so often urged, that London can only support one

Opera House, and that must be an Italian one. So long as the vast metropolis, with three millions of inhabitants, is without a national Opera House, the necessity for competing houses will exist whenever the Italian language is used, but where, at all events, the artists, whether vocal or instrumental, will be of almost every nation, the majority—and the fact is remarkable—of the choralists and orchestral players are English. As for the principals, how many of them are Italian born and bred? So far as regards the formation of a modern Italian Opera House in this country, there is talent enough in the European and Transatlantic and musical markets to stock half-a-dozen theatres. Mr. Wood, the *impresario* of Drury Lane, with his acting manager, Mr. Jarrett, had not the slightest difficulty in bringing together a body of efficient artists, many of whom had already made their mark, while others were novices who had to create their reputation. The leading singers belonged indeed to the Covent Garden combination, which began to break up in 1869, before half of its first season was ended. This result was palpable to every calm observer of operatic affairs. It was absurd to suppose that so many queens of song could reign supreme under one roof. It was not as if so many *prime donne* had been gathered from various capitals; although even then the task of reconciling their pretensions would be difficult indeed; but to assume that two separate companies, which had been enjoying their own privileges and *répertoires*, could be blended into one, was as absurd a belief as that which entered the brains of the double Directorate, that the musical organization, discipline, and efficiency of an Opera, the work of twenty-two years, could be transferred from the hands of a thorough disciplinarian, a consummate musician, and an incomparable conductor, to the rule of two professors, with divided authority. The competition of 1870 was therefore inevitable, despite the confidence felt by the fusionists that as Her Majesty's Theatre had been secured by an accident, there was no chance of opposition. The conversion of Drury Lane Theatre into an Italian Opera was nothing new; it had been tried before, and successfully too, by Mr. Mapleson, with Mr. Jarrett for his manager. The season of 1870 began on the 16th of April, and ended on the 30th of July. The subscription of forty nights had this honourable exception to former practices in the treatment of opera-house patrons, that the dates subscribed for were rigidly adhered to, except at the express desire of subscribers who wished the nights varied. The administrative arrangements were generally such as to command confidence. If a new *artiste* did not make the impression expected, there was no attempt to force her on the public night after night. The great mistake committed by the management was in placing such great reliance on one *prima donna*. It was too prominently put forward that it was to be a Nilsson season—that the Swedish songstress was to be the sole star, and that the competition was in fact to be a kind of duel between Madame Patti and Mdlle. Nilsson. Conceding that Covent Garden fell into the same grievous error, impartial amateurs must come to the conclusion that had the Drury Lane director relied more on the new works promised in the prospectus, and on the *ensemble* of the execution, the contrarieties which arose when Mdlle. Nilsson was *hors de combat* at the most critical period of the season might have been avoided or diminished. There must be, however, in the interest of art advancement another avowal distinctly made. With all due deference to the extraordinary ability both of Madame Patti and of Mdlle. Nilsson, they are not the *artistes* who ought to hold such a position that a fine *ensemble* is to be sacrificed for them. Neither Madame Patti nor Mdlle. Nilsson possesses the commanding powers of a Malibran, of a Viardot, of a Pasta, or a Grisi; and these great artists were, be it recollected, grandly supported. Certainly the bold saying of the husband of Madame Catalani, when asked what was necessary to form a company, "Ma femme et quatre poupées," cannot be applied

either to the dark Spaniard or to the fair Swede. However the public may be blamed for supporting the star system, the greatest amount of censure must fall on the *impresarii*, who prefer to pay monstrous prices for a single singer because it enables them to grind down able and conscientious artists by telling them insultingly "they do not draw."

The operas produced at Drury Lane Theatre during the past season were as follows:—

MEYERBEER—The Huguenots; Roberto il Diavolo; Dinorah.
VERDI—Rigoletto; Trovatore; Traviata.
AMÉROISE THOMAS—Mignon.
MOZART—Don Giovanni; Nozze di Figaro; L'Oca del Cairo;
Il Flauto Magico.
GOUNOD—Faust.
WAGNER—Fliegende Holländer.
ROSSINI—Il Barbiere; Otello.
DONIZETTI—Lucia.
FLOTOW—Marta.
BELLINI—Sonnambula.
WEBER—Abu Hassan.

Now, nineteen operas produced in less than four months, in a theatre where almost everything had to be found for the *mise en scène*, prove there was no lack of zeal and industry in any department; it was not even found necessary to have two directors or two conductors. Signor Ardit, who was never absent from his post, did his duty bravely. He had secured a good orchestra, so far as execution was concerned, but which lacked tone to render it more complete. The chorus was not up to the mark, especially the female voices. At both opera houses, in fact, the choralists have been unequal to their duties.

In looking over Mr. Wood's prospectus, it is to be regretted that so many new operas were specified, that it was impossible the pledges could be redeemed. The Italian adaptation of Cherubini's 'Deux Journées,' Schira's opera of 'Silvaggia,' Verdi's 'Macbeth,' Rossini's 'William Tell' and 'Tancredi,' Verdi's 'Ballo in Maschera,' were all mentioned, with casts of the leading characters, and not one of them has been performed. Surely there was no necessity to have published such a list when its impracticability must have been so obvious! Why cannot the musical public be dealt with fairly? The redeeming point in the promises fulfilled has been the production of Wagner's 'Flying Dutchman.' Although this opera was given only at the fag end of the season, and but two performances have been presented, and the financial wisdom of the experiment has not been truly tested, for the two first performances of a new work cannot decide the question of its permanent attraction, still there has been that unmistakable verdict pronounced in the "foyer" and in society which leaves no doubt that, had 'The Flying Dutchman' been heard sooner, it would have proved an attraction. The *Athenæum* has already noticed the 'Oca,' 'Abu Hassan' and 'Mignon,' not one of which is likely to remain in the *répertoire*, yet praise must be awarded for the production of these novelties.

The *débuts* of the new singers have not been fortunate. Much was naturally anticipated from Madame Monbelli's brilliant concert-singing of 1869, but on the stage she produced little or no effect, owing to her deficiencies as an actress. Mdlle. Lewitzky, the Russian vocalist, was a complete novice, and the favour she met with in the 'Oca del Cairo' was dispelled by her failure in Mozart's 'Zerlina.' Mdlle. Saventhal, from Pisa, has not appeared, but her place as *Valentine*, in the 'Huguenots,' was taken by Madame Barbot, who in France and Russia had achieved distinction, but who arrived here at too late a period of her career to take any position. Mdlle. Reboux, with her tremulous voice, had no possible chance after the exhibition of her *Donna Anna*. Madame Volpini is such an excellent *artiste* that it is to be regretted greater prominence was not assigned to her; she fairly divided the honours in 'Mignon' with Mdlle. Nilsson. Mdlle. Cari, the new contralto, had little to do; what she did was, however, well done. Of the new tenors and basses, Signor Rinaldini is likely to be the most useful, Signor Perotti's Edgardo ('Lucia') not having turned out more sympathetic than his Erik ('Flying Dutchman'). M. Verger, as a baritone, was between two fires, M. Faure and Mr. Santley, and was

therefore extinguished. Signor Raguer, the new basso, made no stand against Signor Foli. Collectively, however, the company was calculated to cast capably any opera; but there seemed at times a want of judgment in allotting the characters, as in the lamentable representations of 'Don Giovanni' and of the 'Huguenots.' Besides the artists already specified, there were Mdlle. Murska, Madame Sinico, Madame Trebelli-Bettini, Madame Corsi, Signori Mongini, Bettini, Gardoni, Archinti, Gassier, Castelli, Trevero, Zobili, and Mr. Lyall. The position taken this season by Mdlle. Murska has been more prominent than at any former period. She has modified her method, corrected her style, and abandoned eccentricities, which so spoiled her singing formerly. Her *Princess* in 'Roberto,' her *Dinorah*, and, above all, her *Senta*, in Wagner's work, have decidedly increased her reputation. The return of M. Faure was a second successful event, but it is to be regretted that he only played 'Don Giovanni' one night, owing to the failure of the *Zerlina* and *Donna Anna*, and the incompetency of the *Leporello* and the *Don Ottavio*. His fine acting and singing in 'Mignon' went far to make its success. It is a pity that M. Faure had not the opportunity of doing *William Tell* and *Nevers* (not *St. Bris*), in the 'Huguenots.' Mr. Santley's services were of infinite value, as were those of Signor Foli. Signor Mongini maintained his reputation as a strong tenor,—more than a shade too strong, like *Wachtel*. The triumphs of Mdlle. Nilsson are too recent to recapitulate; perhaps her finest display of artistic intelligence was exhibited in *Donna Elvira* ('Don Giovanni'), which she raised, by her admirable acting and expressive singing, to an importance it had never before attained in the hands of any other artist. Mdlle. Nilsson is always *comme il faut* on the stage; she is quite the lady, and, if not dramatically powerful, is strongly sympathetic. In her *Lucia*, in her *Mignon*, in her *Desdemona*, in her *Marguerite*, the type of the *Ophelia* is manifested,—that of a charming dreaminess. It is to be hoped that, in her approaching Transatlantic trip, she will husband her powers, as the experience of this season must have taught her the imperious necessity of subduing the French *criard* school, and of relying more on the subdued style, in which she is so captivating. Her indisposition at the most attractive period of the season was most unfortunate for the management, as public confidence was shaken in the announcements of operas; but whatever were the mistakes and shortcomings, the year 1870 will be agreeably associated with Drury Lane Opera in many ways, especially as regards the *ensembles*, which were far better than those of the rival Opera House, as on no occasion were more than four performances given in the week,—more than enough even, to secure effective representations of grand operas and sufficient rehearsals for new works.

Musical Gossip.

DR. FERDINAND HILLER, being unable to be present at the rehearsal next week of his new cantata, 'Nala and Damayanti,' has requested Sir Michael Costa to conduct the work. Herr Hiller hopes, however, that the campaign in Germany will not prevent his being present at the Birmingham Festival. The new composition by Prof. R. P. Stewart, of Dublin, to be performed on the 31st, is entitled an 'Ode to Shakspeare.' The cantata by Mr. John Francis Barnett is named 'Paradise and the Peri,' founded on Moore's poem. Mr. Sullivan's new orchestral work is called 'Overture di Ballo.' Mr. Benedict's oratorio, which will be produced on the 2nd of September, is based on the history of St. Peter. These five novelties will be tried next Monday and Tuesday, in St. George's Hall.

THE summer Italian Opera Saturday Concerts at the Crystal Palace are at an end. The principal singers at the closing performance were, Mdlle. Ilma di Murska, Mdlle. Pauline Lewitzky, Mdlle. Felice, Madame Sinico, Mr. Santley, Signori Perrotti, Urio and Zobili. The choir sang in the March and Chorus from Beethoven's 'Ruins of

Athens,' the Shepherd Chorus from Schubert's 'Rosamunda,' and in a part song by Silche.

A FINAL farewell provincial tour is announced for Signor Mario, who is to be accompanied by Signor Sivori, the violinist.

MR. MAPLESON, with his travelling *troupe*, will give operas in Dublin, Liverpool, and Manchester, up to November next, when he will rent Covent Garden Theatre for a month.

BALLAD operas of the ancient school are not yet extinct at the Crystal Palace: 'The Quaker' and 'The Waterman' have been performed.

MESSRS. G. F. Anderson, J. B. Chatterton, J. Calkin, Ferrari, J. M. Murdie, Williams, and F. B. Jewson, have been elected directors of the Philharmonic Society. If the question was asked by a foreign professor whether these names, respectable as they are, represent the musical ability of this country, there would be little difficulty in answering by a negative. Mr. Cusins, who is the conductor, and Mr. G. A. Macfarren, who writes the analytical notices, are, of course, really representative men in art.

M. FÉLICIEN DAVID has set the 'Rhin Allemand,' but the composition was found coarse and boisterous, although well sung by M. Achard, costumed as a 'Sergeant de Chasseurs.' M. Faure was more successful at the Grand Opéra with 'The German Rhine'; but the enthusiasm for the 'Marseillaise' has not been abated by Musset's song. The patriarch Anber and the widow of Scribe have given to the Patriotic Subscription their rights of 20l. per night each time 'Masaniello' is given, coupled, however, with the condition that the 'Marseillaise' must be sung after the opera. The most curious musical manifestation which the war has produced is that by Offenbach, who has composed an Imperial battle-song, called 'Dieu, garde l'Empereur.' As Offenbach is a native of Cologne, his future career in Germany will be closed by this composition.

A NEW one-act opera, entitled 'Le Kobold,' the libretto by MM. Nuitter and L. Gallait, the music by M. Gueraud, has been produced at the Imperial Opéra Comique in Paris. The work was solely mounted to show off the pantomimic ability of Signora Trevisan, the Italian dancer. The Kobold is a kind spirit, who patronizes bachelors, on the condition, however, that they must not marry; and it is a peasant girl who discomfits the demon, enacted in ballet of action by Signora Trevisan.

PIERRE DUPONT, a national song writer and composer, died recently at Saint-Étienne. He was born in 1821. He was a popular singer as well.

THE widow of Ernst, the violinist, is now giving readings at the Sorbonne, in Paris.

THE death in Vienna of Joseph Strauss, the composer of dance music, is announced; he was one of three sons of the celebrated Strauss. The deceased composer has left about 300 original works, and more than 200 arrangements for the full orchestra, and different instruments.

DRAMA

HAYMARKET.

THE 'Overland Route' has been played at the Haymarket, and has been followed by Mr. Talford's burlesque of 'Atalanta; or, Three Golden Apples.' In the comedy Mr. Arnott played the part of *Tom Dexter*, of which Mr. Charles Mathews was the original exponent. Mr. Arnott's acting was conventional but effective, and was received with loud applause. Miss Edith Challis, who made, as *Mrs. Sebright*, her first appearance, has the advantages of an agreeable presence and some vivacity. Nothing in the acting of the other parts calls for mention. The burlesque was poorly supported.

Dramatic Gossip.

MISS NEILSON has accepted an engagement at Drury Lane Theatre.

MR. CHARLES READE's version of his novel of 'Put Yourself in his Place,' has been produced at the Standard, with a cast, differing so far as the minor characters only are concerned, from that with which it was first played.—A drama, by Mr. Hazlewood, entitled 'Taking the Veil, or the Harsh Stepfather,' has been produced at the Britannia. A principal incident is the storming of an Austrian convent by French troops.—At the Grecian, a drama, entitled 'Weeds and Flowers of Erin,' the production of a Mr. McDermott, has been played.

THE present season, while it lasts, must at least be inexpensive to French managers. All through the land the case is the same. No new plays are needed. Audiences flock to the theatres for the purpose apparently of furnishing a gratuitous chorus to the 'Marseillaise,' which warlike chant echoes from one end of France to the other.

To give the titles of the patriotic dramas at present in preparation at the various theatres of Paris would be a sufficiently tedious task. Some novelties of a different description are promised however. The Odéon will re-open on the 1st of September, with 'Le Mauvais Caractère,'—the Théâtre de Cluny, on the 10th of August, with 'Père et Mari,' and the Délassements Comiques, on the 25th of August, with a fairy spectacle, entitled 'Les Contes de Fées.'—A three-act piece, by MM. Nuitter and Néré Desarbres, has been accepted at the Folies Marigny.

THE news from America deals wholly with prospective arrangements. Miss Fanny Janauschek, known for some years as a German actress, has studied English with a view to appearing on the American stage. Her first part will, it is expected, be *Deborah*, in a version of Dr. Mosen-thal's play of the same name.—Mr. Jefferson is about to re-appear at Booth's Theatre, in the immortal *Rip van Winkle*, a character he has been playing in America for many years, we believe, without interruption.—Mr. John Brougham has joined the company at Wallack's Theatre.—Niblo's will open with a Californian actor, named Lawrence Barrett, whose first appearance will be in a drama of American origin, entitled 'The Luck of Roaring Camp.'—Marie Seebach, a German *tragédienne*, is expected at the Théâtre Français.—At the Fifth Avenue, 'Twelfth Night' is promised, with Mrs. Scott Siddons as *Viola*.—A new play by Miss Matilda Heron, and a comedy written expressly for this theatre by Dumas *fils* are among promised novelties.

THE French Vaudeville and Comic Opera Company, expected at Lima, will not arrive, as they have quarrelled with their manager. The Odéon Theatre, built for them, is now on sale. The Teatro Principal is to be occupied by a good Spanish Zarzuela Company.

ANTIQUARIAN NOTES.

Runagates' Eyes.—The word *runagates*, in 'Romeo and Juliet,' has ever been a "bone of contention," upon the meaning of which commentators have never agreed. The passage I refer to is in act iii. sc. 2, where Juliet says—

Spread thy close curtain, love-performing night,
That *runagates' eyes* may wink; and Romeo
Leap to these arms, untalked of, and unseen.

I beg to submit what I consider to be, so far as I know, a new interpretation of the word *runagates*, in the place of which *runaways* has so long been erroneously used. I suggest that *runagates' eyes* mean *wandering stars* (i.e. the planets)—a suggestion I believe I can prove to be right, and which would make the passage read—

Spread thy close curtain, love-performing night,
That *wandering stars* may wink [twinkle]; and Romeo
Leap to these arms, &c.

I consider this to be the meaning Shakspeare desired to convey, and should like to hear some subscriber's opinion thereon. T. T. B.

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